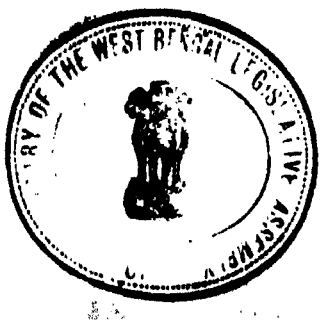
OF THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THE

# BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

# PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report.)

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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# GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

## GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Victor Alexander George Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.I.E.

## MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, Vice-President, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Land Revenue.
2. Land Acquisition.
3. Forests.
4. Irrigation.
5. Excluded Areas.
6. European Education.

The Hon'ble Sir John Kerr, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Reserved Industrial Subjects.
4. Marine.

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2. Emigration.
3. Immigration.
4. Jurisdiction.
5. Legislative.
6. Haj Pilgrimage.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson, C.S.I., C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Appointment.
2. Political—excluding Haj Pilgrimage.
3. Police.
4. Jails.
5. Ecclesiastical.

## MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA, Kt., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Local Self-Government and Public Health.

The Hon'ble Mr. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolio:—

Education.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Agriculture and Public Works.

## GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

### PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. COTTON, C.I.E.

DEPUTY-PRESIDENT.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY.

---

Secretary to the Council—C. TINDALL, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Deputy Secretary—A. M. HUTCHISON.

Assistant Secretary to the Council—K. N. MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. McKAY.

# BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

### A

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Mr. M. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Amir. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Ayub. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

### B

Band, Mr. R. N. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath. [Minister, 24-Parganas Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barton, Mr. H. (Anglo-Indian.)
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra. (Nominated Non-official—Labouring Classes.)
Bose, Mr. S. M. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]

### C

Carey, Mr. W. L. (Indian Mining Association.)
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]

Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Minister, Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Colvin, Mr. G. L. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Crawford, Mr. T. C. (Indian Tea Association.)
Currie, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

## D

Das, Babu Bhismadev. (Nominated Non-official—Depressed Classes.)
Das, Mr. S. R. [Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
De, Babu Fanindralal. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
DeLisle, Mr. J. A. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
Donald, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan. [Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Duval, Mr. H. P. (Nominated Official.)

## E

Emerson, Mr. T. (Nominated Official.)

## F

Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
French, Mr. F. C. (Nominated Official.)

## G

Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. D. C. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder. (Calcutta University.)
Goode, Mr. S. W. (Nominated Official.)

## H

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M. (Nominated Official.)
Huntingford, Mr. G. T. (Nominated Official.)
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Md. Madassur. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

## J

James, Mr R. H. L. Langford. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]

## K

Karim, Maulvi, Fazlal. [Bakarganj, South (Muhammadan).]
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John. (Member, Executive Council.)
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad. (Nominated Non-official.)
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. Ershad Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

## L

Lang, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Larmour, Mr. F. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Law, Raja Reshee Case. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

## M

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble. (Member, Executive Council.)
Makramali, Munshi. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
McAlpin, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)

Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. (Minister, Presidency Landholders.)
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Muir, Mr. R. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon. [Hooghly Municipalities (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherji, Professor S. C. (Nominated Non-official—The Indian Christian Community.)
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

## N.

Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

## P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Parrott, Mr. Percy.
Poddar, Babu Keshoram. (Bengal Marwari Association.)
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R. (Nominated Official.)
Pugh, Colonel A. J. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

## R

Rae, Mr. W. R. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
Raheem, Mr. Abdur. (Nominated Non-official.)
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-. (Member, Executive Council.)
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [Deputy-President, 24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor. (Dacca Landholders.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra. (Nominated Non-official—Labouring Classes.)
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. J. N. (Nominated Official.)
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]

## S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Skinner, Mr. H. E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Spry, Mr. H. E. (Nominated Official.)
Stark, Mr. H. A. (Anglo-Indian.)
Stephenson, Mr. H. L. (Member, Executive Council.)
Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Swan, Mr. J. A. L. (Nominated Official.)

## T

Travers, Mr. W. L. [Rajshahi (European).]

## W

Walsh, Mr. C. P. (Nominated Official.)
Wilson, Lt.-Col. R. P. (Nominated Official.)
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Nominated Official.)

# THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

## (Official Report of the Ninth Session.)

### VOLUME IX.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 23rd August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

**Present:**

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

**Panel of Chairmen.**

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** Gentlemen, in accordance with the provisions of rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council, 1920, the following members are nominated to form a panel of four Chairmen, viz., Mr. Langford James, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq and Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. Unless otherwise ordered, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Council during my absence.

**Starred Questions**

**(to which oral answers were given).**

**Immovable properties of Government servants.**

*1. **Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether there is any standing rule for every Government employee

to submit a list of all immovable properties owned or managed by that official in different districts of the Province in which he is ordinarily employed?

(*b*) If so, is the rule obligatory also on the Hon'ble the Members of the Executive Council and the Hon'ble the Ministers?

(*c*) Is it true that the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the excluded area has extensive properties in some of the excluded districts?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Members and the Hon'ble Ministers have filed lists of their immovable properties in the Province?

(*e*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of getting such lists for information and reference?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

### Steps against brothels.

***II. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Have the Government in the Police Department considered whether more legislation is necessary to empower the police to prevent houses from becoming brothels?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps against procurers, landlords having prostitute tenants and ghariwallas who frequent the houses of ill-fame?

(*c*) Are the Government contemplating declaring the following areas as public thoroughfares, namely, Chitpore Road, from Machua Bazar to Bagbazar, Sonagachi, Garanhatta, Joy Mitter Street, and Harkatta Gully of Bowbazar?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) and (*b*) The subject is under consideration.

(*c*) No; such declarations are made on the recommendation of the Corporation which considered but disapproved proposals to declare Chitpore Road and Joy Mitter Street as public thoroughfares in 1921.

### Professor of Pharmacology in School of Tropical Medicine.

***III. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the academic qualifications of the present Professor of Pharmacology in the School of Tropical Medicine?

(*b*) What were his original contributions in the domain of Pharmacology before his appointment?

(*c*) What have been the nature of his researches and contributions to medical journals since the appointment?

(*d*) Was this post openly advertised in the press?

(*e*) If not, was the selection confined to the officers of the Indian Medical Service only?

(*f*) If so, what were the special reasons which led the Government to appoint the present Professor of Pharmacology?

**SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Wilson):** (*a*) M.A.; B.A. (Natural Science Tripos) (Cantab.); M.D.; B.C. (Cantab.).

(*b*) (*1*) Research work under Professor Dixon in Cambridge on the action of various drugs.

(*2*) Awarded the M.D. of Cambridge for the work on the "Action of expectorant with special reference to cilia."

(*c*) (*1*) Published "The Therapeutics of Emetine" in the *Indian Medical Gazette* in July, 1922.

(*2*) Research work has been done on—

(*i*) Punarnava,

(*ii*) Shiga and other toxins,

(*iii*) Cinchona alkaloids, and

(*iv*) Emetine.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Yes, in accordance with the despatch of Secretary of State dated the 5th May, 1916.

(*f*) Major Chopra was specially selected for and appointed to the post by the Government of India, before the School of Tropical Medicine was provincialized. He was recommended for the appointment by Professor Dixon as he was eminently fitted for this appointment.

## Reduction of staff on District Officers being relieved of duties of Chairmen of District Boards.

***IV. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state in which of the districts the District Magistrates have been relieved of their duties as Chairmen of District Boards?

(*b*) What reductions, if any, in the staff of officers have been or are being made on this account?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** (*a*) In all districts except Darjeeling.

(*b*) No reduction is possible. The District Magistrate as Chairman of the District Board carried on District Board work through the Board's staff.

### Loans to District Boards for water-supply.

***V. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether, according to the resolution which was moved by Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra in this Council on the 24th of November, 1921, and which was accepted in its amended form by the Government, any provision has been made in the current year's budget for loans or grants to the district boards for water-supply?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state what sum has been provided in the budget?

(*c*) What amount has been allotted to the Burdwan municipality, and the district board of Burdwan?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) No provision for grants has been made. It is not practicable for Government to accept liability for the improvement of rural water-supply. The provision of an adequate supply is not impossible if the cost, like the need, is strictly localized.

Loans are provided for certain irrigation works, which it may be possible to utilize for replenishing tank supplies. This matter of tank supplies is receiving the special attention of the anti-malarial branch.

(*c*) Provision for a loan of Rs. 35,000 to the Burdwan municipality has been made.

### Statistics of cholera.

***VI. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any figures are available showing the number of cholera cases in the different districts of Bengal from January to April, 1922?

(*b*) Has there been any increase in the number of such cases in 1922 as compared with 1921 and 1920?

(*c*) If so, what are the figures?

(*d*) What steps have been taken by the Government to cope with the disease in the districts of Bengal?

(*e*) What is the amount spent by the Government to cope with the disease?

(*f*) Did the Director of Public Health issue a circular to all municipalities and district boards suggesting anti-cholera vaccination as one of the remedies?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is correct that the Government realised the price of such anti-cholera vaccination from the municipalities and district boards to whom this was supplied?

**SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Goode):** (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*d*) Measures of local sanitation are primarily the duty of local authorities. The Circle Assistant Directors of Public Health have nevertheless frequently been deputed to advise them in organising anti-cholera measures.

(*e*) During the period from January, 1922, up to date, no temporary doctor for epidemic work was employed, but the services of Assistant Directors of Public Health were utilized as stated above. A sum of Rs. 500 was spent in disinfectants and medicines.

(*f*) A copy of circular letter No. 5281-5422 E. of the 30th March, 1922, issued by the Director of Public Health on the subject is laid on the Library table.

(*g*) Anti-cholera vaccine is obtainable on payment from the Central Research Institute at Kasauli. It is stocked in the office of the Director of Public Health and issued at cost price to local authorities.

## Period of stay of the Subdivisional Officer at Balurghat.

***VII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the period for which Magistrates are generally placed in charge of a subdivision?

(*b*) When was the present Subdivisional Magistrate placed in charge of the Balurghat subdivision?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The period for which a Magistrate is kept in a subdivision is at the discretion of Government and depends on the nature of the post, the qualifications of the officer, and the interests of the public service.

(*b*) On the 7th November, 1917.

### Chaukidars of Pabna.

***VIII. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of chaukidars in each police-station in—(*a*) the Sadar and (*b*) the Sirajganj subdivisions, respectively, in the district of Pabna;

(*ii*) the total amount of cost of their maintenance and equipment;

(*iii*) the amount contributed annually by the Government to the chaukidar unions for the maintenance and equipment of chaukidars;

(*iv*) what was the income of each chaukidari union under the Village Chaukidari Act, 1870, and the expenditure for its office management and realisation of taxes in the district of Pabna during the last 8 years?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*i*) The information on record is contained in statement H attached to the annual report on the police administration, copies of which may be consulted in the Council Library. Separate figures for each police-station are not shown. The total figures for 1921 are as follows:—

Pabna Sadar subdivision—chaukidars 1,077; daffadars 101: total 1,178. Sirajganj subdivision—chaukidars 1,231; daffadars 108; total 1,339.

(*ii*) The cost for chaukidars and daffadars was Rs. 1,81,290 in 1921.

(*iii*) Government give no contribution.

(*iv*) Details are not on record. The total amount of chaukidari tax realised in the district in 1920 was Rs. 2,07,840. Under rule 51 of the Chaukidari Manual, the maximum amount admissible for cost of collection is 10 per cent. of the amount collected.

### Witness sheds in courts.

***IX. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there are waiting rooms for witnesses in the civil, revenue and criminal courts in this Presidency?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the fact that for want of proper accommodation respectable witnesses sometimes refuse to attend courts for giving evidence?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of constructing waiting rooms for witnesses?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) Witness sheds are provided in a certain number of courts.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The member is referred to the proceedings of the Council of the 31st March last and my speech on Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan's resolution on the subject of construction of witness sheds in the courts of Bengal.

### New Mounted Police in Calcutta.

***X. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the new Mounted Police in Calcutta, sanctioned by the Legislative Council in the July session, are going to be employed for the regulation of traffic in the streets of Calcutta?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to mention the names of the localities in the city where they will be so employed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes; this is one of the duties which the Mounted Police are performing.

(*b*) They are being employed on the Maidan and its roads and in the localities of Bowbazar, Burrabazar and Central Avenue wherever their presence is most required.

### "Goondaism" in Calcutta.

***XI. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department been drawn to the increasing *goondaism* in Calcutta specially in the commercial centres like the Rajah Brojendra Narain Roy Street in Burrabazar and its neighbourhood?

(*b*) If so, what steps are Government taking in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) and (*b*) Yes. Attention is invited to paragraph 3 of the resolution on the report on the police administration of Calcutta published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 9th August, 1922.

### Calcutta Police Committee Report.

***XII. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether

a *Committee appointed to inquire into the question of the incidence of the charge of maintaining the Calcutta Police in the town of Calcutta have submitted their report?*

*(b) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table?*

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** *(a)* Yes.

*(b)* Copies have been distributed to members of the Council.

### Congestion of traffic at certain crossings in Calcutta.

***XIII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** *(a)* Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that congestion of traffic often occurs at Dalhousie Square, north-east, and in the Strand Road near the Howrah Bridge owing to the stoppage of tram-cars and bullock carts whose halting stations are at those places?

*(b)* Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that the congestion causes inconvenience to passengers going to the Howrah railway station?

*(c)* Are the Government considering the desirability of relieving the congestion by changing the halting places of tram-cars and diverting some of the carts by the Harrison Road at the Junction, near the Howrah Bridge?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** *(a)* Congestion occurs from time to time at these spots; that at the north-east corner of Dalhousie Square cannot be considered as excessive and no improvement is expected by altering the tramway stopping station there. No halting stations have been fixed for bullock carts. The congestion on Strand Road cannot be remedied until a new bridge over the Hooghly is constructed. The bullock cart traffic is mostly proceeding to Howrah and congestion is greater on days when there is a high tide owing to the difficulty of crossing the present bridge.

*(b)* Yes.

*(c)* No improvement would be effected by changing the halting places of tram-cars or by diverting carts by Harrison Road which is already congested.

### Varole Khal.

***XIV. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** *(a)* Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the mouth of the Varole Khal is being gradually silted up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that this is gradually affecting the health of the people in the villages around Poradah?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the people of the district are asking that a ditch of about 30 ft. × 3 ft. × 3 ft. be cut at the mouth of the khal to allow of a free flow of water through the khal?

(*d*) If so, what action are the Government taking in the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The answers are in the negative.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

## Kanungoes.

***XV. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the scale of pay and gradation of the Kanungoes have been revised in recent years? If not, why not?

(*b*) Did the Hon'ble the Member receive any representation from this body of public servants?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken on the representation?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*) As the pay of the Kanungoes was last revised in 1914, it has not been revised in recent years.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government propose to introduce a revised time-scale of pay with effect from the 1st September, 1922, and the vote of Council is being asked to a grant of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose.

## Sacrifice of cows in village Garadob in Meherpur on "Bakr-Id."

***XVI. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware that the Subdivisional Officer of Meherpur, Nadia, has promulgated an order by beat of drum that during the period 4th to 15th August no sacrifice of cows should take place in the village of Garadob in the subdivision of Meherpur?

(*b*) What is the reason for this order?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the inhabitants of this village are predominantly Muhammadan and that this order affected the celebration of the *Bakr-Id* festival?

(*d*) Is he also aware that no such orders were passed in previous years?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) To prevent a breach of the peace.

(*c*) It is reported that the numbers of Hindus and Muhammadans in this village, including the adjoining hamlet of Bahadurpur, are about equal.

(*d*) No such order was passed in previous years, as the necessity for it did not arise.

## Copyists and typists of courts.

***XVII. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) With reference to the resolution carried in the Bengal Legislative Council regarding the copyists and typists on the 31st August, 1921, and the answer to starred question No. XXXIV put in the July session of the Council by Mr. S. M. Bose, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reason for the delay in giving effect to the resolution which has been carried in this Council regarding the copyists and typists on the 31st August, 1921;

(*ii*) in what way, and when, do the Government intend to give effect to the resolution referred to in (*i*) above?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that dissatisfaction is prevailing among the copyists and typists?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that distress is prevailing among the copyists and typists owing to the rise in prices of almost all the necessaries of life?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) above is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the steps they propose to take to meet the situation?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) above, is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for his conclusion that there is no distress among them?

(*f*) Have the Government come to any decision regarding the creation of a Provident Fund for the typists and copyists? If so, what has been its decision?

(*g*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the copyists and typists are not allowed anything as remuneration for doing extra work for the Courts or the Judicial officers or during the days on which the Courts remain closed?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of granting an *ad-interim* allowance to the copyists and typists till their case is finally decided as was allowed in the case of the ministerial officers? If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) (*i*) The matter is still under consideration.

(*ii*) Nothing has yet been decided.

(*b*) and (*c*) The answer is in the negative. No reports to this effect have been received.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

(*f*) The matter is under consideration.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) No. Copyists are paid for piece-work.

### Certain police officers in Calcutta Police and Bengal Police.

***XVIII. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that assistant commissioners in Calcutta are in the same rank and position as deputy superintendents in the Bengal Police?

(*b*) If so, what is the reason for the maximum monthly salary of the former being Rs. 625 as compared with Rs. 800 for the latter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The position of these two classes of officers is similar.

(*b*) Assistant commissioners, who are all promoted officers, draw pay on a time-scale of Rs. 425—25—625. The revised scale of pay for deputy superintendents who are recruited, half by promotion and half directly, is Rs. 250 rising in 25 years to Rs. 700. The grade of Rs. 800 is a selection grade for 7 per cent. of the cadre. In a comparison of the total emoluments of the two classes, it should be noted that assistant commissioners get free quarters and a conveyance allowance; of deputy superintendents in Bengal outside Calcutta, only those in charge of subdivisions receive an allowance of Rs. 25 and no one is provided with free quarters.

### Lease of Sundarbans arable lands to capitalists.

***XIX. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) since when leases of arable lands in the Sundarbans to large capitalists are not being granted;

(*ii*) what reasons are there for their discontinuance;

(*iii*) whether there are any such ideas underlying it as were expressed in the report of Mr. Thackeray of the Madras Board of Revenue as given on pages 990—991, Appendix, Fifth Report, Select Committee; and

(*iv*) why leases of other forms of waste lands, such as tea-leases, leases for quarrying stones and limestones, and mining leases, etc., are still being granted to large capitalists?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) The system has been discontinued since the year 1904.

(*ii*) The reasons are—

(*a*) the loss of revenue involved under the system of settlement with capitalists;

(*b*) the difficulty of compelling a lessee to carry out the provisions of the lease;

(*c*) the facilities for subinfeudation afforded by the system; and

(*d*) the absence of effective provision for the maintenance of embankments, upon which the cultivators are so greatly dependent.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) As capital is essentially necessary to work tea-gardens, mines, etc., such leases are granted to capitalists.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** May I know whether the cost of reclamation, erection and maintenance of *bandhs*, and *taccavi* loans that are granted involve a capital outlay or not?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I must ask for a fresh notice.

## Extension of Calcutta Rent Act.

***XX. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of a feeling of anxiety on the part of tenants in general in Calcutta at the prospect of the near termination of the Calcutta Rent Act?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that certain landlords have used the fact of the near termination of the Rent Act as a weapon for demanding exorbitant rents or of threatening their tenants with ejection immediately on the termination of the life of the Act?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the tenure of the Act for another three years, or such longer period as they may think necessary and of announcing their intention at once, and also of amending the Act with the object of meeting the difficulties that have been experienced in its working?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a general feeling among the middle and poorer class of tenants in Calcutta that the necessity for the Act still exists?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are informed that such cases have occurred.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) The Minister is unable to speak with any authority on this point.

### Status of Vakils in the Calcutta High Court, Original Side.

***XXI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the answer given on the 4th April, 1921, to my starred question No. XXV, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the local Government have received any communication from the Government of India on the question of the status of the vakils and their admission into the Original Side of the High Court?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the views of the local Government have been submitted to the Government of India?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the correspondence or at least give the Council a general idea of the same?

(*d*) If they have not yet submitted their views, are the Government considering the desirability of consulting the Bengal Legislative Council in this behalf before submitting their views?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) and (*b*) The local Government has been consulted and has submitted its views.

(*c*) Under the rules guiding the local Government, the correspondence cannot be laid on the table or a general idea of its views be given at present.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

### Defalcation of Court-fee stamps in Bakarganj Treasury.

***XXII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether there was a shortage of court-fees and stamps from the Bakarganj District Treasury to the amount of about Rs. 50,000?

(*b*) Was any inquiry instituted into this matter?

(*c*) If so, what was the result of the inquiry?

(*d*) What is the name of the officer responsible for the shortage?

(*e*) What steps, if any, have been taken to recover the amount due to this shortage under the Accounts Rules?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) There was a defalcation of court-fee stamps in the Bakarganj Treasury of the value of Rs. 37,186-8-0.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) The defalcation was made by the Stamps Clerk who has since committed suicide. The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** Are not the Treasury Officer and the Treasurer primarily responsible for this defalcation?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** The matter is still under investigation, and I am unable to express any opinion on this supplementary question.

## The "Swaraj" and "Hak Katha."

***XXIII. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the Government contribute any amount to the publication of the *Swaraj* and *Hak Katha*? If so, how much?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The member is referred to the answers given to similar unstarred questions Nos. 13 and 14 asked at the meetings of the Legislative Council dated the 21st November and 19th December 1921, respectively.

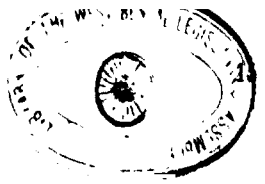
## Unstarred Questions

### (answers to which were laid on the table).

### Education Standing Committee.

**1. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—(1) the number of sittings of the Education Standing Committee during the last official year, and (2) how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter):** Five meetings of the Standing Committee were held during the last official year. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.



**Kala-azar in Barasat.**

**2. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that in some parts of the Barasat subdivision, in the district of 24-Parganas, and especially in the Habra thana, there has recently been a large number of cases of Kala-azar?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of directing the attention of the 24-Parganas District Board to it and further of inquiring whether the charitable dispensaries in the affected area have been duly equipped to treat cases of Kala-azar?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) A statement prepared by the Director of Public Health is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 2.*

**Kala-azar near Barasat.**

Recently the inhabitants of Bahera village in Barasat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district applied to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government Department to depute an officer from the Bengal Public Health Department to investigate an outbreak of "Black fever of a most virulent type," as it was reported that about hundred people had died from this cause during the last few months. Accordingly the Assistant Directors of Public Health for Malaria and Kala-azar visited the village, and made a house to house inspection. As a result they found that 80 per cent. of the villagers had enlarged spleen. They also detected 19 cases of Kala-azar, 17 of which were verified by microscopic examination. All these patients were given treatment by antimony injections. The Medical Officer of the Charitable Dispensary was instructed in the latest methods of using the remedy, and the necessary articles were supplied to him. Subsequently a specially trained Sub-Assistant Surgeon was deputed to visit the dispensary for the purpose of administering further treatment. The antimony injections are known to be useful both as a cure and for preventing the spread of Kala-azar, and it is hoped that the people of Bahera will avail themselves of the remedy now placed within their reach by the efforts of the Public Health Department.

**Scarcity of drinking water in Vishnupur.**

**3. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that there is

great scarcity of good drinking water in the subdivision of Vishnupur, district Bankura, and, if so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, will be taken this year to combat the evil?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The Minister has no special knowledge of the scarcity of good drinking water in Vishnupur subdivision and no complaint has been made on the subject by the local people or the local body. The improvement of the water-supply is a matter for which local bodies are primarily responsible.

## Admission of students into Calcutta Medical College.

**4. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the total number of candidates this year for admission into the Calcutta Medical College and the number of vacancies in the first-year class?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any attempt is being made to cope with the growing demand by gradually increasing the capacity of the first-year class?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased also to state whether it is correct that for the last five years the seats of admission have been limited to the same number?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Candidates 949; vacancies 150.

(*b*) The Medical College has reached the limit of its capacity. The number of students to be taken in is strictly limited by the seating capacity of our class rooms, and to accommodate the present number of students the classes have had to be duplicated and triplicated.

The site is already fully occupied with building and it would be impossible to enlarge them to provide extra accommodation without entailing an expense in building, staff and maintenance charges which is not to be contemplated.

(*c*) The statement is incorrect. The gradual increase in the number of students admitted year by year indicates the effort made to meet the demand—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1917-18 | .. | 164 |
| 1918-19 | ... | 167 |
| 1919-20 | ... | 174 |
| 1920-21 | ... | 182 |
| 1921-22 | .. | 192 |

**Alleged irregularities in accounts in Northern and Western Circles of Agricultural Department.**

**5. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain irregularities have been noticed by the auditor of the Accountant-General's Office, Bengal, in the Northern and Western Circles of the Bengal Agricultural Department, and that, amongst others, the auditor has reported the following irregularities:—

(*i*) misappropriation of Government money and responsibility for same;

(*ii*) manipulation of accounts;

(*iii*) unreal payments in March to utilise grants;

(*iv*) disguising payments; and

(*v*) missing accounts?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the auditor's report mentions, among others, the following irregularities noticed in the Eastern Circle of the Agricultural Department of Bengal:—

(*1*) purchases on one date were split up to Rs. 50 and under, to avoid obtaining the Director's sanction;

(*2*) some moneys drawn from the treasury were not entered in the cash book, nor was the expenditure entered in the cash book; and

(*3*) no account is kept of postage service stamps?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken to deal with the officers responsible for the irregularities mentioned?

(*d*) Does the Director of Agriculture inspect the offices of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture?

(*e*) If so, how many times each year did the Director inspect the office of each Deputy Director during the last 3 years? If not, why not?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The inquiry to which the question refers was made in 1919, and the officers who were found to be at fault were dealt with in 1920 before I assumed charge of my office. Government do not consider that it is in the public interest to re-open the matter now by giving the information asked for.

(*d*) and (*e*) No. Hitherto it has not been considered necessary to make such inspections.

**Economy in the administration of the Ministry of Local Self-Government.**

**6. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what economies, if any, have been effected by him, since he assumed office, in the administration of the various departments included in his portfolio?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The Minister is not aware that his assumption of office has led to any economies in the administration of his department. Curtailment of expenditure is clearly impossible when important developments in sanitation, in medical relief and in local self-government are to take place.

**Sluice-gate at the mouth of the Suafulla Jola.**

**7. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is aware that the crops of a part of Pabna district are being destroyed every year by the sudden flooding of the *bil* by rain-water passing through the Beniapur (Suafulla) Jola?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of erecting a sluice-gate at the mouth of the abovementioned Jola in order to prevent the sudden flooding of the *bil*.

(*c*) What would be the approximate cost of the erection of such a sluice-gate?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Government have no definite information in this respect.

(*b*) and (*c*) The questions do not arise.

**Centre for language examination of officers.**

**8. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the average number of officers of the Indian and Bengal services appearing every year in language examinations; and

(*ii*) the total average travelling allowance drawn by them every year?

(*b*) Where are those examinations held?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of fixing the district headquarters as the centre of those examinations for the respective candidates under the presidency of the District Judge or Magistrate?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Two hundred and eighty-one. It is presumed that the information asked for refers to departmental examinations.

(*ii*) The information required is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of trouble incommensurate with the usefulness of the information obtained.

(*b*) Calcutta.

(*c*) No.

### Officers eligible for certain language examination.

**9. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the number of Mughs resident within the Patuakhali subdivision of the Bakarganj district?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether officers of the Bengal Civil Service stationed at Patuakhali are eligible for appearing at the Mughee language examination?

(*c*) What are the rules for appearing at the Mughee language examination and where are they to be found?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any examination in the Garo language is held in Bengal?

(*e*) If so, whether officers stationed in the Mymensingh district are eligible for appearing at that examination?

(*f*) What are the districts and subdivisions in the Rajshahi Division from which an officer is allowed to sit for the Santalee language examination?

(*g*) Are there any Mundas resident within the Jalpaiguri district?

(*h*) Is any examination in the Munda language held in Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Ten thousand one hundred and eighty.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The member is referred to Appendix VI to the Departmental Examination Rules which will be found on the Library table.

(*g*) Yes; 34,601.

(*h*) No.

### Accommodation for students in Medical Institutions.

**10. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that a large number of candidates for admission into the Calcutta Medical

College, Carmichael Medical College and Campbell Medical School are annually refused admission owing to want of accommodation?

(*b*) Is it a fact that many candidates for admission into the Campbell Medical School do actually possess the qualifications necessary for admission into the Medical Colleges?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of raising the status of the Campbell Medical School to that of a Medical College at an early date?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No, it is not strictly correct. At the last admission, out of 37 I. Sc.'s admitted only 15 were First Division and 22 were Second Division men. The Medical College could fill their admission list with B. Sc.'s alone and Second Division I. Sc.'s have very little chance. The Campbell admits I. A.'s. The figures at the last admission were 9 First Division, 19 Second Division, and 4 Third Division—total 32. The Medical College does not admit I. A. candidates.

(*c*) No.

### Sanitary improvements.

**11. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what improvements, if any, were made, or whether any proposal for sanitary improvement was suggested by the Health Officers of the Municipalities and District Boards in Bengal within the last five years?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** A copy of a printed note furnishing the information is laid on the Library table.

### Water-works at Tangail.

**12. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps it is proposed to take with regard to the proposed water-works at Tangail?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 1,43,000. Government were unable to give any definite assurance of a grant, when the case was submitted by the Sanitary Board, but the Commissioner was informed that if a stated portion of the cost were raised locally, the question of giving a grant for the balance would receive the sympathetic consideration of Government. He was asked to inquire what prospect there was of providing the local

contribution. The District Board of Mymensingh is prepared to make a contribution, but the local Committee, appointed to carry through the scheme, has not yet succeeded in raising the amount suggested by Government.

**Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** May I know when the local committee was formed and when they were asked to raise a portion of the estimated cost by public subscriptions?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I want a fresh notice of this question.

**Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** How long is it that they have reported their inability to raise any amount by public subscriptions?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I want a fresh notice of this question.

**Land acquired for abandoned district headquarters at Jamalpur.**

**13. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the land which was acquired at Jamalpur, by Government, for the abandoned district headquarters, has been leased out to agriculturists of the locality for cultivation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for not doing so?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) and (*b*) No arrangements of any kind have yet been made for the disposal of the land pending the receipt of complete plans and schedules.

**Lower Ganges bridge and Nadia rivers.**

**14. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether it has been discovered that the construction of the Hardinge Bridge over the Lower Ganges has affected the flow of the Nadia rivers in any way?

(*b*) If so, which are the rivers thus affected and what are the remedies proposed?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

**Chaprasis in Judicial and Executive Departments of districts.**

**15. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the actual number of chaprasis employed in the Judicial and Executive Departments separately in every district;

(*ii*) the maximum and the minimum salaries received by them; and

(*iii*) the number of vacancies that occur annually in each of the two Departments in every district?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) The information asked for is not on record and Government consider that its compilation would involve time and trouble out of all proportion to its value when obtained. The member is, however, referred to pp. cxxxi *seq.* of Volume II of the Salaries Committee's Report, where he will find the numbers and designation of the menials employed in the Province. Their pay was fixed in Government Resolution No. 13371 F., dated the 22nd August, 1921, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

**Calcutta Christian Burial Board fee.**

**16. Mr. H. A. STARK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state in how many instances fees have been charged and in how many instances fees have been accepted by clergymen from the date of the introduction of the Calcutta Christian Burial Board fee of Rs. 3 (to cover the out-of-pocket expenses of clergymen conducting funerals) to the 30th April, 1922?

(*b*) If any such fee has been refused by a clergyman, has it been refunded to the person who paid it?

(*c*) What steps have been taken by the Christian Burial Board to notify to the public that through the agency of that Board, the poor are furnished with inexpensive funerals?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Fees were charged in 600 cases from 1st June, 1921, to 30th June, 1922, and in only 6 or 7 cases was the fee refused by the clergyman who conducted the funeral.

(*b*) The Christian Burial Board reports that in all such cases the money was refunded to the person who paid it.

(*c*) A circular letter was issued to all clergymen inviting their co-operation in making known to their poorer parishioners the cheap scale of charges for burials fixed by the Board.

(*d*) Does not arise.

**Agricultural schemes adopted on Council resolutions.**

**17. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a list of the schemes in the Department of Agriculture referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(*b*) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(*c*) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(*d*) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) A statement supplying the information so far as available is laid on the Library table. It is not possible to give the approximate cost of these schemes.

**Dwelling houses for the poor and labouring classes of Calcutta.**

**18. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the removal of huts caused by the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that neither the Improvement Trust nor the Corporation of Calcutta have taken adequate steps for the erection of sanitary dwelling houses for the poorer and labouring classes of Calcutta during the last ten years, respectively?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of moving these two authorities in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta have, in order to provide housing either permanently or temporarily for persons who are displaced by the operations of the Trust, (*i*) either constructed buildings, or (*ii*) set aside sites on which owners can build their own houses.

The dwellings constructed or being constructed by the Board are of three kinds:—

I. Artisans' Dwellings.—Three blocks of these buildings have been constructed in Wards Institution Lane. They contain accommodation for 1,215 persons and are always in demand.

It is proposed to construct blocks of an improved design to rehouse the Chinese and Bengali Buddhist and others in the Prinsep Street and Chatawalla Gullee Areas.

II. Residences for middle class Bengali people displaced by the operations of the Trust.—These houses will be let at a privileged rent while the displaced householders are making arrangements for permanent residences. Six blocks containing in all 39 comfortable residences of this kind are nearly complete in Kerballa Tank Lane near Upper Circular Road.

III. Residences for Anglo-Indians displaced principally from the Prinsep Street Area.—These are of three types, the rental varying from Rs. 17 to Rs. 45. They are now under construction on a plot which has been cleared in the Bow Street Area.

Building sites have been reserved in the Bhowanipore, Russa Road and Park Street Extension Area for persons whose residences have been acquired for the purposes of the Trust. Besides these, areas have been acquired in Maniktolla and Paikpara (Cossipore-Chitpore) for plots to be sold to those who desire to build their own houses. In Maniktolla a site has been cleared and levelled and roads constructed to provide for 35 masonry houses and 80 kottahs of busti.

On Paikpara it is proposed to lay out a large area in sites for owners to build upon. Part of this area has already been acquired and acquisition of the rest is in progress.

The question of erecting model dwellings for the poorer classes was also considered by the Corporation of Calcutta on several occasions between 1900 and 1904. Various sites were suggested but the scheme was not carried through. In August, 1919, the Corporation appointed a Special Committee to consider the question of erecting sanitary dwellings for the poorer classes. The Committee have recently approved of a scheme for the provision of dwelling houses on the surplus land on the new 60-foot road in Ballygunge. The scheme which is estimated to cost Rs. 3½ lakhs and is intended to provide accommodation for about 1,000 people, is now before the Corporation, and if it is sanctioned endeavours will be made to provide funds in the Corporation Budget for 1923-24.

(*c*) In view of the facts stated above, Government do not consider it necessary to take any further action in the matter.

## Language Examinations.

**19. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state how often in a year the departmental examinations of the probationary officers of all departments are held in Calcutta?

(*b*) What average expenditure Government have to incur every year on account of the travelling allowances of the officers who have to proceed to Calcutta from the mufassal?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of holding the departmental examinations in divisional headquarters under the supervision of Divisional Commissioners?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, what are the objections to adopting such a course?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Twice—in May and in November.

(*b*) The information required is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of trouble incommensurate with the usefulness of the information obtained.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) If departmental examinations are held at divisional headquarters it is impossible to secure uniformity in the standard of *viva voce* tests in Bengali and Hindustani.

## Salary system to copyists of courts.

**20. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to appoint copyists of Civil, Criminal and Revenue Courts on a salary system?

(*b*) If so, when is it proposed to introduce the system?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

## Medico-legal cases.

**21. Khan Bahadur Maulvi HAFIZAR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state where medico-legal cases are treated in the hospitals at districts and subdivisional headquarters?

(*b*) Is there any separate building with beds for those cases?

(*c*) Is it not correct that other patients cannot be taken in occasionally owing to the medico-legal cases?

(*d*) Do the Government pay any hire for the use of the buildings that belong to the local bodies for the medico-legal patients?

(*e*) How much is paid by the Government per day for every medico-legal case for medicines, dressings and diet?

(*f*) Does this amount cover all these charges?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Under rule 8 of the Dispensary Manual, injured persons brought by the police are entitled to admission as in-patients to all dispensaries under Government supervision which have accommodation.

(*b*) No, except at Alipore and Barrackpore.

(*c*) No such case has been brought to the notice of Government.

(*d*) No. The fact that the police send a wounded person to a dispensary does not affect his right to free treatment in common with other patients at a charitable institution.

(*e*) Government pay nothing on account of medicine and dressings, but a diet allowance is paid by Government in such cases. The daily rate of diet allowance varies to some extent; in the Dacca and Mymensingh districts, to take an example, it has been fixed at six annas per diem.

(*f*) Government have received no representation indicating that the diet allowance is insufficient.

### Filtered water-supply in suburban municipalities.

**22. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state to how many suburban municipalities the Calcutta Corporation are supplying filtered water at present, what is the quantity supplied to each of them, and the respective distances at which they are situated from the Tallah Tank?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statements referred to in the reply to question No. 22.*

### (*a*) Suburban municipalities supplied with filtered water by the Calcutta Corporation.

Manicktola Municipality.

Cossipur-Chitpore Municipality.

Tollygunge Municipality.

Garden Reach Municipality.

South Suburban Municipality.

Dum-Dum Cantonment.

(*b*) **Quantity supplied during the year ending 31st March, 1922.**

Manicktola—166,208,750 gallons.
Cossipur-Chitpore—191,004,000 gallons.
Tollygunge—14,874,830 gallons.
Garden Reach—31,274,680 gallons.
South Suburban—9,028,000 gallons.

(*c*) **Distance from Tallah.**

Manicktola—one mile approximately.
Cossipur-Chitpore—half a mile approximately.
Tollygunge—seven and a half miles approximately.
Garden Reach—nine miles approximately.
South Suburban—eight and a half miles approximately.

**Anti-malarial schemes.**

**23. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what sum of money is available for the promotion of anti-malarial schemes during the current year, and the manner the said money is to be employed?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Provision to the extent shown below has been made to carry on the following schemes which were designed in part with a view of abating the malarial conditions of the areas concerned, *viz.*,

Revenue (supplementary estimates)—
Nowi, Sunthi Scheme Rs. 1,14,854.

Loan estimate (sanctioned budget)—
Jahuna Scheme—Rs. 1,00,000.
Arool Bhil Scheme—Rs. 50,000.
Nowi, Sunthi Scheme—Rs. 1,00,000.

Loan estimate (supplementary)—
Nowi, Sunthi Scheme—Rs. 1,78,060.

**Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents in certain hospitals.**

**24. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, have been made at the Mayo

and Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospitals for providing Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents from among the independent medical practitioners in Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased also to state—

(*i*) the number of Honorary Physicians and Surgeons attached to each of these hospitals;

(*ii*) for how long this system has been in existence; and

(*iii*) the sum that has been spent both as non-recurring and recurring expenses for the introduction and maintenance of this system?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) No arrangements have been made for providing Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents from among the independent medical practitioners in the two institutions mentioned.

(*b*) (*i*) At present there are two Honorary Physicians at each of the institutions, while there are three Honorary Surgeons at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital and two Honorary Surgeons at the Mayo Hospital.

(*ii*) The system has been in existence since 1914.

(*iii*) The initial expenditure necessitated by the introduction of the scheme incurred by Government was Rs. 9,470 and the recurring charges borne by Government amount to Rs. 10,600 per annum.

## Thana dispensaries.

**25. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing district by district—

(*i*) the names of the 137 police-station headquarters which are still without a charitable dispensary; and

(*ii*) the names of the district boards which have signified their inability to provide these charitable dispensaries though partially helped by the Government and by local subscriptions?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*i*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*ii*) Generally speaking, the proposal has been approved by the District Boards. The Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna, Dacca, Bakarganj and Rajshahi Boards—in most cases, on financial grounds—did not accept the proposal for having a dispensary at each thana headquarters. In the case of most of these Boards the proposal was not very definitely rejected, but Government is asked to bear a considerable portion—usually half—of the initial and recurring cost.

**Medical relief by employing peripatetic village practitioners.**

**26. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the opinions of the several district boards on the possible utility or otherwise of the system of medical relief by employing peripatetic village practitioners partially subsidised by the Government and partially by the district boards?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Government have not in many cases received copies of the resolutions passed by district boards, but an abstract of their opinions as reported by the local officers is laid on the Library table.

**Economy in the Ministry of Education.**

**27. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state what economies, if any, have been effected by him, since he assumed office, in the administration of the various departments included in his portfolio?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** No economies have been effected as a result of the assumption of office by the Minister.

So far as the Department of Education is concerned there is not much possibility of economy, on the contrary, in deference to the wishes of the public in the matter, the expenditure for the department has been substantially increased since the present Minister took charge of his office. A suggestion has, however, been recently made in the Legislative Council for retrenching the inspection expenses of the department and the matter is being carefully investigated. No retrenchment has yet been actually made.

The question will be further considered by the Retrenchment Committee which has recently been appointed by the Government.

**Courtesy title of Nawabzada.**

**28. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the son of a titled Nawab is entitled to call himself Nawabzada when he has not been recognised as such under any order of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing a circular to all district officers instructing them that a Nawab's sons are not to be addressed as Nawabzadas unless the title is recognised by Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The designation "Nawabzada" is confined to the sons of hereditary title-holders of or

above the rank of Nawab. A temporary exception has been allowed in the case of the sons of personal title-holders in particular families as shown at page 67 of the Appendix to the Bengal Civil List for the quarter ending the 1st July, 1922.

(*b*) A circular was issued by the Political Department of Government in December, 1912, and no further instructions to the district officers seem necessary now. The names of all entitled to be addressed as "Nawabzada" are shown in tht Appendix to the Civil List.

### Students' Unions.

**29. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware that a movement has been started for organising students' unions in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, how many colleges of Bengal have got such unions?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of publishing a *communiqué* encouraging the formation of such students' unions? If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) It is known that such a movement has been started, but no official information is available.

(*b*) It is believed that four colleges in Bengal have such unions.

(*c*) Government have no present intention of doing this, but the matter will be considered.

### Civil suits and criminal cases in the Tippera district.

**30. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of suits—civil suits and criminal cases—instituted in each of the three subdivisions of the Tippera district in the last two years?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 30 showing the number of civil suits and criminal cases instituted in each of the three subdivisions of the district of Tippera in the years 1920 and 1921.*

Sadar subdivision—

Civil suits instituted in 1920—22,039; in 1921—17,741.

Criminal cases instituted in 1920—8,434; in 1921—6,737.

Brahmanbaria subdivision—

Civil suits instituted in 1920—18,162; in 1921—13,792.

Criminal cases instituted in 1920—4,827; in 1921—3,747.

Chandpur subdivision—

Civil suits instituted in 1920—12,985; in 1921—9,482.

Criminal cases instituted in 1920—3,269; in 1921—2,154.

## Malarious districts.

**31. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the five districts of Bengal where the incidence of malaria and cholera are proportionately the highest per mille of population, taking into account the average of the last five years?

(*b*) (*i*) What arrangements have been made by the Government since January, 1921, to improve the water-supply for drinking purposes and to open out water-logged areas in the above districts; and (*ii*) what expenses have already been incurred by Government for the purpose?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) The districts in which the incidence is most severe, are the following:—

Fever (including many non-malaria cases): Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia, Dinajpur and Burdwan.

Cholera: 24-Parganas, Howrah, Midnapore, Birbhum and Khulna.

A printed note on the subject which gives a more correct view of the facts is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Government have not yet undertaken works in this direction but it will be the function of the special anti-malaria branch to advise on such operations.

## Population of Bengal.

**32. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in a tabular form, district by district—

(*i*) the total population of Bengal according to the last census;

(*ii*) the total annual average mortality for the last five years;

(*iii*) the number of hospitals and charitable dispensaries; and

(*iv*) the expenses, other than establishment charges, incurred by the Government under the head "Medical and Public Health" during the last five years?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The requisite statements are laid on the Library table.

### Serampore Khal.

**33. Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken to improve the insanitary condition of the Serampore Khal in the town of Serampore, in the district of Hooghly, since the answer given by the Hon'ble the Minister to my question No. 245 at the sitting of the Council on 13th July, 1921?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** An estimate of cost for the improvement of the khal has been drawn up by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department. The question of funds is now under consideration.

### Allotments of cess income to union boards.

**34. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he has received any representation from any union board to allot a part of the income from the road cess and public works cess to them?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to make any such allotment?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

### Transfer of income from firms to Naihati Union Board.

**35. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he received a petition from the Chairman, Naihati Union Board in Khulna, to hand over to the Board the income from several firms within the jurisdiction of the said Union?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble the Minister propose to address the Chairman, Khulna District Board, on the subject?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) It does not appear that any such petition was received.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

**Cost of administration before and after Reforms.**

•**36. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the difference in the cost of the administration of the Government of Bengal before and after the institution of the Reforms?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** The figures for ordinary expenditure are:—

1920-21 (actuals), Rs. 9,16,89,000 (excluding expenditure in England).

1921-22 (revised), Rs. 11,88,86,000 (including expenditure in England).

1922-23 (budget), Rs. 10,24,20,000 (including expenditure in England).

For an explanation of the increase, the member is referred to the speech of Mr. Spry, Secretary to Government, Finance Department, on the 23rd January, 1922. Tax Bill (Bengal Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. VII—No. 1, pp 272—275).

**Anti-malarial or sanitary drainage schemes.**

**37. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any of the district boards of Bengal submitted any scheme of anti-malarial or sanitary drainage works?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district board by district board, what schemes have been so submitted together with their approximate cost?

(*c*) Are those boards taking loans from the Government? If so, for how much, and for what schemes?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

**Murder cases in Burdwan.**

**38. Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last five years from date—

(*i*) the number of cases of murder;

(*ii*) the number of lives lost in each case; and

(*iii*) the ultimate result of each case, in the district of Burdwan?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement of murder cases in the district of Burdwan for 5 years, referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 38.*

| Year. | Total number of cases declared true. | Total number of lives lost | Number of cases detected. | Number of cases ending in conviction. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1917 ... ... | 16 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| 1918 ... ... | 19 | 19 | 1 | Nil |
| 1919 ... ... | 17 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| 1920 ... ... | 17 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| 1921 ... ... | 26 | 26 | 8 | 1 |

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the statement given here in answer to question No. 38 discloses a state of affairs which demand drastic action for the improvement of the police?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Is that a question? Is it not asking for an expression of opinion?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I cannot allow this question.

## Stay of Under-Secretaries at Darjeeling.

**39. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state for how long the Under-Secretaries to Government remained at Darjeeling in the years 1919-20 and 1920-21?

(*b*) For how long have they remained at Darjeeling during 1921-22 and 1922-23?

(*c*) If the period be longer, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this longer stay?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler gave an assurance to the Council that the Darjeeling expenses and residence of officials would be curtailed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a), (b) and (c) of unstarred question No. 39, showing the duration of the stay of Under-Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries in Darjeeling during the period 1919—22.*

| | Under or Assistant Secretary of Department. | Period of stay in 1919-20. | Period of stay in 1920-21 | Period of stay in 1921-22 | Period of stay in 1922-23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Days | Days | Days. | Days |
| 1. | Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments. | 135 | 128 | 40 | 70 |
| 2. | Finance and Commerce Departments. | 48 | 83 | 65 | Nil |
| 3. | Revenue Department ... | 43 | 50 | Nil | Nil |
| 4. | Education and Local Self-Government Departments. | 73 | 54 | 18 | Nil |
| 5. | Agriculture and Industries Department. | Nil* | Nil* | 17 | 21 |
| 6 | Public Works Department. | Nil | 27 | Nil | Nil |

* The Department was created in 1921

## Deputy Commissionership of Police from Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Assistant Commissioners.

**40. Mr. H. A. STARK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans are precluded by rule or practice from being promoted from Assistant Commissioners to Deputy Commissioners of Police in Calcutta?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of earmarking at least one Deputy Commissionership of Police from the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Assistant Commissioners of Police?

(*c*) Is there any order by which an Assistant Commissioner of the Calcutta Police cannot officiate for a Deputy Commissioner of Police in Calcutta for a period exceeding four months?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. It is not considered desirable to reserve posts which are filled by selection and merit for a particular class of subordinate officer.

(*c*) Yes. The question of a modification of this order is now under consideration.

## Doveton College Funds.

**41. Mr. H. A. STARK:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of European Education aware that in 1915 when the Doveton College was abolished owing to the passing of the Doveton Trust Act, 1914 (Bengal Act III of 1914), there existed appertaining to the College the following separate Trust Funds, namely—

(*i*) Arson Scholarship Fund established 1864, value Rs. 3,750,

(*ii*) Vos Testimonial Fund, established 1860, value Rs. 500,

(*iii*) Morgan Testimonial Fund, established 1885, value Rs. 500, and

(*iv*) Maharaja Sindhia Fund, established 1893, value Rs. 300?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) what has become of these funds,

(*ii*) by whom they are being administered,

(*iii*) what now is their respective corpus,

(*iv*) how they are being utilised, and

(*v*) if any of them is not being utilised, how Government propose that they should be employed?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) and (*b*) No information is discoverable about the Vos Testimonial Fund, Morgan Testimonial Fund, and Maharaja Sindhia Fund. It is probable that they were merged in the rest of the Doveton property.

The Arson Scholarship Foundation which was founded about 1863 with a corpus of Rs. 3,500 appears to have been absorbed in the Doveton College Funds: it is impossible to trace the facts, but the probability is that the promissory notes in which the Trust money was invested were sold by the Bank to cover overdrafts. In 1915, after the passing of the Doveton Trust Act, Government issued orders that the scholarship should be revived. This has not been done, but steps to this effect are now being taken. The Scholarship Fund will be administered by the Inspector of European Schools, Bengal.

### School Inspecting Agency.

• **42. Mr. H. A. STARK:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement of the school inspecting agency entertained by the Department, indicating—

(*i*) the number of school inspectors in each class of inspecting officers;

(*ii*) the cost in the year 1921-22, including salaries and travelling allowances, of each rank of inspecting officer;

(*iii*) the average number of schools which each sub-inspector of schools has under his inspection, and the prescribed frequency of his inspection of each school within the official year; and

(*iv*) the total amount paid to each grade of school (*e.g.*, high schools, middle schools, etc.), as grant-in-aid during the year 1921-22?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to the answers to a similar question asked by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur on the 11th July last.

(*iii*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*iv*) The member is referred to the answers to a similar question asked by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur on the 11th July last.

### Commerce Department schemes on Council resolutions.

**43. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table a list of schemes in the Department of Commerce referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(*b*) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(*c*) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(*d*) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) There was no scheme of the nature referred to in the Commerce Department.

### Presidents of the Bengal Legislative Council.

**44. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of the appointment of Mr. H. E. A. Cotton as President of the Bengal Legislative Council;

(*ii*) the date from which Mr. H. E. A. Cotton will draw his pay;

(*iii*) the date from which the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda has resigned the post of the President, Bengal Legislative Council;

(*iv*) how long during his tenure of office was the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda on leave;

(*v*) the monthly salary of the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda; and

(*vi*) the monthly salary of the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton as the President of the Bengal Legislative Council?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*i*) 1st July, 1922.

(*ii*) Mr. Cotton will draw pay from the date on which he joins his duties.

(*iii*) 1st July, 1922.

(*iv*) The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was permitted to be absent from his duties for a period of about five and a half months.

(*v*) Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

(*vi*) Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

## Damodar Canal water rates.

**45. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government have consulted the district officers and through them the public about the raising of the water rates in connection with the Damodar Canal project?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the views of the district officers and of the public on the subject?

(*c*) Does it become a productive scheme if the water rates are raised?

(*d*) Has the Hon'ble the Member consulted the Standing Committee on Irrigation as stated by him on 2nd December last?

(*e*) When will the Government be in a position to take up the work?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) As the project is still being worked out in detail, the district officers and through them the public have not yet been consulted.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) The questions do not arise.

### Indians in the Calcutta Preventive Service.

*46. **Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what percentage of Indians was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India for appointment in the Calcutta Preventive Service?

(*b*) When was this sanctioned and from what date have the Bengal Government given effect to it?

(*c*) What is the total number of Preventive Officers in the Calcutta Customs and how many of them are Indians?

(*d*) What is the number of Muhammadans and Hindus, respectively, recruited for this service?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The member is referred to the answer given at the Council meeting of the 15th March, 1922, to an unstarred question of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali Khan Chaudhuri.

### Appraisers in Calcutta Customs.

**47. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state how many appraisers there are in the Calcutta Customs, and how many of them are Christians, Hindus and Muhammadans?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons why there is only one Muhammadan appraiser?

(*c*) What qualifications as an appraiser have Messrs. Cousins and Durham?

(*d*) Is it a fact that they were clerks in the Collector's office?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) There are 27 appraisers, substantive or provisionally substantive, of whom 18 are European Christians, 2 Indian Christians, 5 Hindus, 1 Muhammadan and 1 Parsi.

(*b*) Because of the lack of Muhammadans possessing the requisite qualifications (including general Customs experience).

(*c*) Both these officers are officiating as appraisers.

Mr. Cousins had clerical experience and after resigning the Customs Department in 1919 worked for two years with an engineering firm, where he acquired technical knowledge which was a qualification for appointment to an appraisership.

Mr. Durham's work as a clerk and superintendent in the office showed that he possessed a character and intelligence that eminently fitted him for the work of an appraiser.

(*d*) Yes, but Mr. Cousins had resigned his clerical appointment two years before his appointment as an appraiser.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** May I know whether Muhammadan candidates possessing character and intelligence—nothing but simple character and intelligence—and no additional qualifications fitting them for the post of Appraiser were not forthcoming? Mr. Durham's appointment has been justified on the ground that he possessed character and intelligence that eminently fitted him for the work of an Appraiser. As regards Muhammadans it is stated that there were no Muhammadans possessing the requisite qualifications. I ask whether Muhammadan candidates possessing mere character and intelligence were not forthcoming?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I am informed that the Collector of Customs endeavoured to find a suitable Muhammadan candidate but failed to do so.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** May I know if there are any hard and fast rules laid down as to the amount of intelligence and character required?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** There is no hard and fast rule.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Will the answer be communicated to the Collector of Customs?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** Yes; the answer will be communicated.

### Overtime work of preventive officers at salt golas.

**48. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether overtime work at the salt golas after the duty hours, *i.e.*, from 7 A.M. to 3 P.M. is optional with the preventive officers and whether refusal to work overtime is considered an offence rendering one liable to punishment or warning?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying on the table all the papers concerning the dismissal of Mr. P. Dass, dismissal and reinstatement of Mr. G. Jelly and the punishments of Messrs. B. John, C. N. Dover, C. Hart and E. Knight?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) Overtime work is compulsory and refusal to work overtime is treated as a breach of discipline.

(*b*) No.

### Action of Government officers against public press.

**49. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state

whether the now defunct Press Association, which was started in Calcutta about a decade ago, was assured by the authorities that not only previous permission of the Government would be necessary for an action by a Government officer against the Press but that the Government would remain neutral in all cases by a Government servant against the Press?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why the Government are bearing the complainant's cost in such cases at present?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Government have no knowledge of any such assurance.

(*b*) Does not arise.

### Filtered water-supply to Baranagore Municipality.

**50. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer given to my unstarred question No. 289 for the meeting of the 31st March, 1922, and state why the Baranagore municipality has not been mentioned among the riparian municipalities which have no general supply of filtered water?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the fact that the Baranagore municipality has only a partial supply of filtered water limited to a very small area and that this also cannot be used for drinking purposes during the summer months by even the very small number of people who can avail themselves of it?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) A certain amount of filtered water is actually supplied to the inhabitants of Baranagore by the mill authorities. The Baranagore municipality could not, therefore, be correctly included among municipalities "that have not as yet got a filtered water-supply."

(*b*) It is hardly correct to say that the partial supply is limited to a small area. The main from the mill water-works runs along nearly the whole length of Hedger Road, which is one of the principal thoroughfares of the municipality, and it provides for at least one-sixth of the population if not more. The average daily supply to the municipality, as measured by meters fixed since May last, was 22,000 gallons a day during the month of May, and 17,000 gallons a day in June and 11,000 a day for the first 14 days of July. The supply during the summer months of May and June was greater than it is at present. The mills have agreed to supply the municipality 16,000 gallons a day which at 4 gallons a head should provide for 4,000 people against a population of the municipality of 26,000 souls approximately.

### Candidates for Sub-Inspectorship from Faridpur Namasudra community.

**51. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) in what year a Namasudra candidate was appointed as police sub-inspector from Faridpur;

(*ii*) how many candidates from that class applied for the post in subsequent years; and

(*iii*) why none was selected for appointment?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*i*) No such candidate has been appointed.

(*ii*) Twenty-seven in the last four years.

(*iii*) None of them were selected, either on account of their educational or physical disqualifications or because other candidates were considered to be more suitable.

### Revision of pay of police sub-inspectors.

**52. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that there is discontent among the sub-inspectors of police on account of the last revision of their pay?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that the officers of the subordinate educational service and subordinate medical service have all received much higher grades, *viz.*, 75—200, as compared with 80—130 of the sub-inspectors of police?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) increasing the grade, especially the maximum pay, of the sub-inspectors of police; and

(*ii*) introducing an annual system of increment of pay in place of the present quinquennial system?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Government are aware that sub-inspectors of police wish to have their pay further increased.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

### Checking of Council members' travelling allowance bills.

**53. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many members of the Bengal Legislative

Council who charge double first class fares generally travel in lower classes?

(*b*) Are the members required to state in their travelling allowance bills that they have actually travelled in the first class? Would such statements by the members be sufficient to get their travelling allowance bills passed, or are they required to be checked and certified by any officer of the Legislative Department?

(*c*) Is any system of checking and certifying the travelling allowance bills of the Council prevalent? If the answer is in the affirmative, by whom are they required to be checked and certified?

(*d*) If there is no system of checking and certifying the travelling allowance bills of the members of the Council, are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to introduce an effective system for the purpose?

(*e*) Are the Government contemplating any steps to prevent the recurrence of such things in future?

**MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Government have no information on the subject except that contained in the statement made by certain members in the course of the debate on Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt's resolution last July on the subject of the travelling allowance of members.

(*b*) Members are not required to certify on their bills as to the class by which they actually travelled.

(*c*) and (*d*) Travelling allowance bills are checked in the Legislative Department and in the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal.

(*e*) The attitude of Government will be explained in the debate on Babu Fanindrálal De's resolution for this session on the subject of the travelling allowance and residential allowance of members.

## Muhammadan Holidays.

**54. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether any committee was ever formed to consider the question of Muhammadan holidays?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the time it was constituted, the principle under which it was constituted, the names of the members of the committee, and whom they represented?

(*c*) What were the results of the discussion of the committee and what orders did Government pass on its report?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) These questions do not arise.

## School Text-Books.

**55. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the procedure adopted in approving books submitted for use in Primary, Middle English and High English Schools?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a preliminary examination is done before submitting books for examination to the members of the Text-Book Committee?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Dr. T. O. D. Dunn makes that preliminary examination himself? If so, why?

(*d*) Is it a fact that books in Bengali are examined by Dr. Dunn?

(*e*) If so, what special qualifications does he possess to examine books written in the Bengali language?

(*f*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state by whom this preliminary examination is done and what special qualifications the examiners possess for the purpose?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The final approval of all text-books for use in schools rests with the Director of Public Instruction. Books are forwarded (except those on hygiene and sanitation) to the Secretary of the Text-Book Committee. The following action is then taken:—

(*1*) They are examined by English and Indian officers of the department.

(*2*) Books on which opinion is required are issued to members of the Text-Book Committee who record their views and return them to the Secretary. Books obviously unsuitable are put aside.

(*3*) Meetings of sub-committees are summoned and the members discuss the opinions submitted and record their decision. They also see the books rejected in the preliminary examination.

(*4*) A final meeting of the whole committee is then held and is presided over by the Director of Public Instruction. Lists of all books originally sent in are discussed; and books already issued to members, *and books not so issued*, are then available for discussion. Lists of all books originally sent in are laid on the table and the Secretary explains the action taken and the decisions arrived at.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Dr. T. O. D. Dunn cannot possibly examine all the books. He examines certain books in English. The reason is that he is the most suitable officer for this work.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

(*f*) The preliminary examination of Bengali books is done by highly qualified Bengali officers of the department. Their special qualifications are—

(*1*) good university attainments, and

(*2*) experience of school work and requirements.

**Loans for malarial and other schemes.**

**56. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to raise a loan for the purpose of combating malaria and for other kinds of development work in the near future?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The Government of Bengal have been considering the question of raising a loan. If this loan is raised, a portion will be allotted to the Public Health Department and it is proposed that a portion of this allotment should be utilized for granting loans to local bodies for the execution of anti-malarial schemes.

**Waiting-room for females at Ranaghat.**

**57. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the inconvenience felt, specially by *purdah* ladies, for want of a waiting-room, or an enclosed place, on the down platform at Ranaghat station on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of moving the Railway authorities in this matter at an early date?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The attention of the railway authorities will be drawn to this.

**Waiting-room at Poradah.**

**58. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the inconvenience of the travelling public for want of a shed over any of the four platforms of Poradah station on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the Railway authorities to this matter?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The attention of the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities will be drawn to this.

### Dacca University.

**59. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of schools and colleges under the Dacca University;

(*ii*) the total number of students in each school and college;

(*iii*) the total non-recurring cost which has been incurred up to date in connection with the said University and the schools and colleges thereunder;

(*iv*) the total amount of monthly recurring charge incurred for the maintenance and upkeep thereof; and

(*v*) the total number of teachers and professors attached to each school and college and the total monthly salaries payable to them?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) The Dacca University is a unitary teaching and residential University. It has no schools and colleges affiliated to it.

(*ii*) The question does not arise.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) The accounts of the University are being audited by the Accountant-General's Department, and the figures asked cannot be supplied at present, but the question as regards colleges and schools does not arise.

(*v*) The question does not arise.

### Polling centres for election to the Lalbagh Local Board.

**60. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of polling centres set up in the Lalbagh subdivision for recording votes in the recent local board election;

(*ii*) the total number of voters as well as of villages in the subdivision; and

(*iii*) the area of the subdivision in square miles?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the polling centres were set up at distances far away from many villages and that the majority of voters did not attend the booths for recording their votes?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the percentage of voters who attended the booths;

(*ii*) the number of voters in each of the thanas of Jiaganj and Murshidabad;

(*iii*) the percentage of electors who attended the Jiaganj-Murshidabad centre; and

(*iv*) the largest number of votes that returned the successful candidate at the Jiaganj-*cum*-Murshidabad centre?

(*d*) Is it a fact that so far as the above two thanas were concerned many voters did not attend the centre to record their votes and that the Jiaganj side was almost unrepresented?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of setting up polling centres, in future elections, within three miles to the seat of electors?

(*f*) Are the nominations distributed all over the subdivision or are they limited to particular thanas?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) (*i*) Five centres were set up in this subdivision.

(*ii*) The total number of voters was 3,997. The total number of villages was 1,027, but since the transfer of the transgangetic area in April to Malda district the number has come down.

(*iii*) The total area of the subdivision was 459·52, but since April last the area is 453·43 due to the transfer of the transgangetic area to Malda district.

(*b*) The polling centres were set up in the thana buildings and the villages lying on the outskirts of each thana were at some distance from the centre. The majority of voters in each thana centre (Lalgola excepted) did not attend the booths for recording their votes, but the percentage of the voters attending is not disappointing, considering the fact that the Local Board has been newly established in this subdivision.

(*c*) (*i*) The percentage of voters, thana by thana, who attended the booths are as follows:—

Murshidabad and Jiaganj—40 per cent.

Bhagwangola—28 per cent.

Sagardighi—13 per cent. (this was uncontested).
Nabagram—40 per cent.
Lalgola—51 per cent.

(*ii*) Jiaganj—134 voters.
Murshidabad—225 voters.

(*iii*) Forty per cent.

(*iv*) Eighty-three.

(*d*) It is true that many voters from Jiaganj side did not attend the centre and that side was almost unrepresented and this may be attributed to the fact that the only candidate hailing from Jiaganj thana, withdrew his candidature. Proximity of Jiaganj to the polling centre at Murshidabad compares very favourably with the distance of outlying villages from other thana centres.

(*e*) The cost of Local Board election is met from District Fund. The total allocation of funds to the Local Board is only Rs. 2,000. As the setting up of polling centres within three miles of the seat of electors will entail an expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,000 approximately including halting and travelling allowances of Presiding Officers, the proposal cannot be accepted in view of the present financial stress.

(*f*) The nominations are fairly distributed all over the subdivision, as far as practicable. Proper representation of minorities and special communities is also looked to in the matter of nomination.

### Polling centres for election to Lalbagh Local Board.

**61. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the electors of the Local Board election in the Lalbagh subdivision have to travel over long distances from their houses to the polling stations?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of increasing the number of polling stations in this subdivision?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to clauses (*b*) and (*e*) of another question on the subject put by the member at this meeting.

### Medical schemes on Council resolutions.

**62. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the schemes in the Medical Branch referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(*b*) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(*c*) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(*d*) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The following are the resolutions concerning the Medical Branch which have been passed by the Council:—

(*1*) Resolution by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur for the establishment of a charitable dispensary at every thana in Bengal.

(*2*) Resolution by Mr. D. C. Ghose, regarding the establishment of medical schools.

(*3*) and (*4*) Resolutions by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy regarding the appointment of committees to consider the question for the restoration and development of the Ayurvedic and Tibbi or Unani systems of treatment.

(*5*) Resolution by Mr. J. Campbell Forrester regarding the provision of Rs. 50,000 for construction of a Leper colony.

Steps have been taken to give effect to resolution (*1*) in a somewhat modified form and orders have been issued in this office Circular No. 114-18 T.Medl., dated the 5th June, 1922.

With regard to (*2*) the resolution was accepted by Government and a Committee was appointed to advise Government as to the measures to be taken for the establishment of new medical schools. After consideration of the report of the Committee, Government decided to take immediate steps for the establishment of a medical school at Mymensingh for which a provision of Rs. 27,000 is being made in the supplementary estimates for the acquisition of necessary land, while it is proposed to meet the cost of the building from the proposed provincial loan. Some amount has also been raised from other sources towards the scheme. It has also been decided that the next step in this direction will be the establishment of a school at Chittagong as soon as finances permit, estimates for which have been called for from the Surgeon-General.

With regard to (*3*) and (*4*) these resolutions were accepted by Government and Committees were appointed to consider the question of improvement of the Ayurvedic and Unani or Tibbi systems of treatment. The reports of the Committees have not as yet been received.

With regard to (*b*) it may be noted that the original cost of the scheme (providing accommodation for 1,000 patients) which was estimated at Rs. 4, 10,000 (non-recurring) and Rs. 1,50,000 (recurring) has been found to be prohibitive in the present state of provincial finance. It has therefore been proposed to reduce the scheme for the present for 200 patients enlarging it afterwards as funds are available. The estimate of the reduced scheme has been called for from the Surgeon-General and its receipt is awaited. When this is received the question of the provision of funds, as recommended in the resolution, will be considered.

### Stoppage of booking of goods viâ Santahar.

**63. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that the booking of all goods, *viâ* Santahar, was stopped upon the Eastern Bengal Railway on the 5th of July, and that there had been no resumption by the 14th of July?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that no information has been issued by the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway or associated Railways in regard to the length of this stoppage?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps that, in future, when such a stoppage of booking occurs, a statement may be issued, for wide publication, by the Agent giving—

(*i*) the cause; and

(*ii*) the date of probable resumption?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur :** (*a*) Yes. It has been ascertained that the suspension of booking was necessary owing to anticipated difficulties consequent on a change of contractors.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The attention of the Railway administration has been drawn to this suggestion.

### Howrah-Amta Railway fares.

**64. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the steady increase of monthly fares on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the present rates of monthly tickets for the East Indian Railway, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Eastern Bengal Railway and the Howrah-Amta Light Railway?

(*c*) What is the total increase in the new tariff over pre-war rates in the monthly fares?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the increase in the monthly ticket fares has caused inconvenience and discontent among the passengers on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway?

(*e*) What is the stipulation regarding fares in the agreement of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway with the Local Government?

(*f*) Did the Government receive any representation against the increase in the monthly ticket fares on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway?

(*g*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken or is proposed in the matter?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) The fares of monthly concession tickets introduced in October, 1913, were considerably lower in all classes than those in force prior to that date. The 1st class fares introduced in February, 1917, remained the same, but the inter and 3rd class fares were increased over those of 1913. The 1st class fares introduced in June, 1920, were increased in the case of some stations and decreased in others, while the inter and 3rd class were increased. All classes were further increased in the scale introduced in April, 1922.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*d*) It is alleged that this is so in certain memorials received on the subject.

(*e*) The member is referred to paragraph 35 of the "Bengal District Road Tramways Company Order, 1895," published in the *Calcutta Gazette* under notification No. 111, dated the 26th March, 1895, and to the modification in this paragraph published under *Calcutta Gazette* notification No. 17, dated 31st January, 1899.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The reply to the petitions is contained in Bengal Government, Public Works Department letter No. 290/91 R., dated 7th March, 1922, an extract from which is placed on the table.

*Extract paragraphs 1 to 5 from Bengal Government Public Works Department (Railway Branch) letter No. 290/19 R., dated the 7th March, 1922, referred to in the reply to clause (g) of unstarred question No. 64.*

In reply to the memorials, dated the 15th December, 1921, and 4th January, 1922, from (*a*) the daily, weekly and occasional, and (*b*) daily passengers of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway addressed to His Excellency the Governor on the subject of the enhancement of the cost of

monthly tickets on that railway, I am directed to inform you that the Howrah-Amta Light Railway was constructed under the "Bengal District Road Tramways Company Order, 1895," published in the *Calcutta Gazette* under notification No. 111, dated the 26th March, 1895. Though the term "tramway" was subsequently changed to "light railway" the provisions of that order are still in force with such modifications as have been ordered or notified from time to time.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the abovementioned "Order" the extent of control exercisable by Government over passengers' fares is limited to the maxima charges per mile for single journey tickets, the sanction of the Local Government being required to these maxima.

The grant, by the management, of concessions, *e.g.*, monthly tickets, is not governed by the "Order" referred to above and if the management find it necessary to increase the cost of these tickets, Government cannot object provided the basis of the charge, *viz.*, the single journey fare, does not exceed the maximum sanctioned by Government for each class.

Since the opening of the railway the fares charged have been at the rate of 4½ pies per mile for a single journey lower (third) class ticket and this rate is not higher than the rate charged on other light railways in Bengal.

3. The petitioners state that the cost of monthly tickets is to be increased with effect from February, 1922, (*a*) to an extent as is in their opinion exorbitant and (*b*) by 20 to 30 per cent. The facts are that instead of calculating the cost of a monthly ticket at 25 times a single journey ticket the management at first decided to increase the cost to 32 times a single journey ticket.

As the petitioners are no doubt aware the management have, in deference to an appeal by the travelling public, postponed the introduction of the revised fare tariff for monthly tickets for another month, pending further consideration of the matter, and are now prepared to increase the cost of a monthly ticket to 30 instead of to 32 single fares for distances under 12 miles while for distances above 12 miles the charge will be calculated at 24 times the single fare. This proposal, I am to observe, is equivalent to a charge for the shorter distance journeys, of a single ticket fare for a double journey and the concession is of considerable value. If any passenger finds there is no advantage in availing himself of the concession offered, he can still perform each journey at the rate in force by purchasing a single journey ticket.

4. In the circumstances stated, the Government of Bengal (Ministry of Public Works) do not propose to interfere with the method of calculating the cost of concession tickets adopted by the Managing Agents provided the maxima sanctioned rates for each class for single journey tickets are not exceeded.

5. With reference to the contention that the method of calculating the cost of concession tickets on this light railway should be similar to that adopted on other railways particularly on the East Indian, the Eastern Bengal, and the Bengal-Nagpur Railways, I am to say, that as the importance of the revenue derived from each kind of traffic varies on trunk and light railways, the contention cannot reasonably be upheld. Light Railways depend for their principal revenue, on short journey passenger traffic, whereas the principal revenue of trunk lines is derived from goods traffic.

The petitioners refer to Bengal Government letter No. 29T/R., dated the 19th May, 1913, as intimating that the rates of fares on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway would be reduced and that after reduction those fares would be the normal. I am to point out, however, that the reduction, which it was hoped at that time might be effected, could not be brought into operation as the war changed the whole economic condition of affairs.

## Ayurvedic and Unani Report.

**65. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Ayurvedic and Unani Committees have submitted their reports?

(*b*) If not, when does the Hon'ble Minister expect to get the report?

(*c*) If the report has been submitted, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay a copy of it on the table?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Government are informed that the reports may be expected during the cold weather of this year.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

## Kala-azar in Tangail.

**68. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that there is a large percentage of mortality from kala-azar recorded in the subdivision of Tangail?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that there is no provision for the bacteriological examination of suspected cases on the spot to allow of a correct diagnosis at the incipient state?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate taking any steps in regard to this matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government recently inquired whether the District Board would be prepared to assist in establishing a small laboratory for bacteriological examinations in suspected cases. The District Board were not inclined to incur expenditure of this kind and Government are now considering whether it is possible to establish a temporary laboratory at a smaller cost than was originally proposed.

**Representation of Zamindars on Bengal Retrenchment Committee.**

**67. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance aware that the Zamindars of Bengal have got no representative of their own on the Bengal Retrenchment Committee?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of laying before His Excellency the Governor the desire or claim of the Zamindars to be represented on the same?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No The Committee is not intended to be a representative body.

**Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** Does not this Committee represent Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** No; the Committee does not represent Bengal.

**Khulna Settlement Office vacancies.**

**68. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Settlement Officer of Khulna is filling up vacancies chiefly by the appointment of outsiders who have had no touch with Settlement work for a long time?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what arrangement, if any, will be made for the hands now serving in other closing Settlement offices?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

**Realisation of arrears of rent in the Sunderban lands.**

**69. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that arrears of rent are realised from the *raiyatwari* settlement holders of the Sunderban lands by the certificate procedure, *i.e.*, by the same method by which public demands are recovered; and

(*ii*) whether it is a condition of the lease that non-payment of rent on due dates entails forfeiture of settlements and provides for the Government re-entering upon the demised premises?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

**Use of circuit houses by members of Council.**

**70. Mr. K. C. M. FAROQUI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the members of the Legislative Council are entitled to the use of circuit houses?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of revising the rules making the circuit houses available for these gentlemen?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Members of the Legislative Council as such are not entitled to the use of circuit houses, except with the special permission of the Divisional Commissioner previously obtained and on payment of the prescribed rent.

(*b*) No.

**Gumti embankments.**

**71. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) when will the Comilla Gomati embankment work will begin?

(*ii*) what steps have been taken or are being taken for that work?

(*iii*) the length of the bank and the money which has been estimated for its embankment?

(*iv*) the rate according to which payment will be required from zamindars and talukdars?

(*v*) the amount of money which the Government propose to grant for the work?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) Government have no information regarding the Comila Gomati embankment. The following embankments on the river Gumti have, however, been taken charge of and are being maintained by the officers of Government, the cost being realised from the parties benefited, *viz.*—

(*a*) the embankment on the right bank from the village Golabari (numbered 224 in the thana map) to village Solanal (numbered 89 in the thana map), a length of about 9 miles, and

(*b*) the embankment on the left bank from village Katakbazar (numbered 225 in the thana map) to village Kangsanagar (numbered 7 in the thana map), a length of about 21 miles, in thana Comilla lying within the Estates of the Maharaja of Hill Tippera and the Bhukailas Wards Estate otherwise called the Patikara Estate, *vide* Revenue Department Notification No. 4426 L.R., dated the 1st May, 1920, which was published at page 859, Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th idem.

(*ii*), (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*v*) The questions do not arise in so far as the Comilla Gomati embankment is concerned.

### Baral and Icchamati rivers of Pabna.

**72. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of directing an inquiry to be made as to the means of improving the Baral and Icchamati rivers in the district of Pabna?

(*b*) If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) For the safety of the Hardinge bridge.

### Under-trial prisoners of Patuakhali sub-jail and buckets for carrying water.

**73. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether instructions have been issued to all jails and sub-jails to supply lighter buckets for carrying water by under-trial prisoners?

(*b*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reason for the delay?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the under-trial prisoners in the Patuakhali sub-jail still carry water in heavy buckets?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of putting a stop to this at once?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) They do not carry water at present.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** As regards this question, may I rise to a point of order? I find that the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson is replying in the place of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim. May I know the reason?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You are not in order in asking such a question. I think it is well known to the members that there has been a recent change of portfolios among the Hon'ble Members.

### Settlement operations at Dacca and Mymensingh.

**74. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of expenses incurred by the Government for the settlement operations in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh, respectively; and

(*ii*) the amount realised from the tenants and the zamindars of the two districts?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) The approximate expenditure is as follows:—

Dacca—Rs. 23,56,902; Mymensingh—Rs. 39,64,150.

(*ii*) The amounts realised are as follows:—

Dacca—Rs. 22,34,798; Mymensingh—Rs. 32,42,163.

### Tolly's Nala and Kristopur-Bhangore canals.

**75. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware—

(*i*) that the Tolly's Nala and the Kristopur-Bhangore canals have no proper outlets at the Samukpota, Bamunghatta, Kulti, Dhappa and Shyambazar gates;

(*ii*) that the lands on either side of the canals are made uncultivable through water-logging; and

(*iii*) that the localities all around are threatened with failure of crops?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) (*i*) Tolly's Nala is open at the Hooghly end and sluiced at Samukpota.

The Kristopur-Bhangore canals have sluices at Kulti and Thakurdari and locks at Dhappa and Chitpur.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes, to a certain extent.

(*b*) Water is being passed off as fast as possible through all outlets in the canal, but the flooding is due to the deterioration of the Bidyadhari river.

### Recording of proprietory rights in respect to public ways and pasture lands under Dacca settlements.

**76. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the village public ways and pasture grounds have been recorded, under the heading proprietors, "King-Emperor" and in some places, "for the use of the public," in the last settlement operations in the district of Dacca?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** The member is referred to paragraphs 262 and 263, pages 119-120 of the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Dacca, 1910 to 1917, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

### Alleged excess realisation of settlement costs in Dacca and Faridpur.

**77. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether any excess charge and, if so, what amount, was realised from the landlords and the tenants over and above the actual costs incurred in the Survey and Settlement operations in the districts of Dacca and Faridpur?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of refunding the excess charges in proportion to the amount realised, to the parties concerned?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) No charge in excess of the actual costs was realised

(*b*) The question does not arise.

**Excavating canals in Dacca.**

**78. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*i*) what amount was spent during the last cold weather for excavating canals in the district of Dacca, and

(*ii*) what portions of the canals were re-excavated?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) Nothing was spent last year in excavating canals in the Dacca district.

(*ii*) The question does not arise.

**Realisation of arrears of rent from zamindars of Dacca.**

**79. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any steps were taken to allow the zamindars to realise rents from their tenants by means of the certificate procedure where there is no dispute about rents between landlords and their tenants; and

(*ii*) whether any facilities of the certificate procedure have been granted to the zamindars of the Dacca district?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that there is a provision in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Tenancy Amendment Act to allow certificates to the zamindars to realise rents from the tenants?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state how far this has been allowed?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for not allowing this?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The concession has been allowed in two cases in Eastern Bengal, *viz.*—(*1*) four annas share of the Bhowal estate in the district of Dacca owned by Srimati Ananda Kumari Devi; and (*2*) Nawab Family estate in the district of Dacca.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

**Revenue sale of properties in the Dacca district.**

**80. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, the number of properties sold or put to sale in default of Government revenue in the Dacca Division, for the last five years and the number of proprietors on whose behalf the revenue was paid on the sale date?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any inquiries were made about the circumstances under which the proprietors had failed to pay the Government revenue and the cesses; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the proprietors failed to pay the revenue owing to the difficulties of realising rents from the tenants?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) The member is referred to Appendix VI to the Land Revenue Administration Reports for the last five years.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No, the reports do not specify this cause.

**Reclamation of the Bhairab River of Nadia.**

**81. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to clause (*b*) of unstarred question No. 137 put by me on the 29th August, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the preliminary inquiry into the rapid silting up of the Bhairab river bed in the Nadia district and the growth of water-hyacinth, has been made?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table?

(*c*) If the inquiry has not been made yet, when is it likely to be taken up?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Owing to paucity of officers and financial stringency it has not yet been possible to take up the preliminary inquiry.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) As soon as funds and officers are available.

**Munsifs at Madaripur.**

**82. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Munsifs' Courts of Madaripur have been removed to some temporary sheds;

(*ii*) whether the temporary accommodation has been found to be sufficient for those courts, Nazarat and Record-room;

(*iii*) whether it is in the contemplation of Government to erect a *pucca* building or temporary structure for the Munsifs' Courts to be established at Gopalgunge; and

(*iv*) if so, when work will begin for the construction of the proposed Courts?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*i*) Yes. The Courts have been removed to the temporary treble munsifi erected owing to the erosion of the Madaripur river.

(*ii*) No. Certain additions and alterations have been found necessary and are being made.

(*iii*) It is proposed to erect *pucca* buildings.

(*iv*) No date can yet be given.

**Travelling charges of Government servants.**

**83. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to say whether it has been brought to the knowledge of Government that many Government servants actually travel in lower classes and charge travelling allowance for higher classes to which they may be entitled? Have Government taken any action to put a stop to this practice? If not, why not?

(*b*) Is it a fact that many of them avoid direct routes and take to circular routes to get their travelling allowance bills increased?

(*c*) Is it a fact that many District Officers, Deputy Magistrates, Sub-Deputy Magistrates and Officers of the Excise and Police and Settlement departments, and Inspecting officers of the Education department usually go to the mufassal on flimsy pretexts to get their travelling allowance bills increased?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Government are not aware and do not believe that the malpractices suggested in these questions are generally prevalent, though isolated instances of abuse of the rules may possibly have occurred. Except in the case of heads of

departments, no travelling allowance bill may be paid unless countersigned by the controlling officer. It is the duty of the controlling officer (*i*) to scrutinise the necessity, frequency and duration of journeys and halts for which travelling allowance is claimed, and to disallow the whole or any part of the travelling allowance claimed for any journey or halt if he considers that a journey was unnecessary or unduly protracted or that a halt was of excessive duration; (*ii*) to scrutinise carefully the distances entered in travelling allowance bills; (*iii*) to satisfy himself that, where the actual cost of transporting servants, personal effects, etc., is claimed under these rules, the scale on which such servants, effects, etc., were transported was reasonable; and to disallow any claim which, in his opinion, does not fulfil that condition; (*iv*) to check any tendency to abuse the option of exchanging daily allowance for mileage allowance.

In consequence of the discussions on travelling allowance during the last budget debate, Government have recently issued orders impressing on controlling officers the necessity of carefully scrutinising all tour programmes and travelling allowance bills with a view to seeing that tours are arranged in the most economical manner possible, and that travelling allowance is not made a source of profit. All officers have at the same time been warned that Government will take serious notice of any infringement of these instructions.

### Selection of copyists, typists and comparing clerks in courts.

**84. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware of the present system of selecting copyists, typists and comparing clerks in the Civil and Criminal Courts of the Province?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that certified copies of Court records often prove useless to those who pay for them as well as useless for the purpose for which copies are taken at a considerable cost?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of selecting men of better qualifications for copying and typing records of trials and important and valuable documents for which the litigant public are required to pay prescribed fees and extras?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) Yes. Selection is made by the Judge and District Magistrate in accordance with rules framed by the High Court.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The matter is one for the High Court, to whom the question will be referred.

### Financial condition of the Calcutta University.

**85. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the resolution of this Council in favour of a committee of inquiry into the financial condition of the Calcutta University?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to ask immediately for a further grant for that body?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The views of the Calcutta University have recently been received and are under examination. The decision of Government will shortly be announced.

(*b*) In view of the financial position of the Government and certain points insisted upon by many members of the Legislative Council, it is not in the contemplation of Government to ask immediately for a further grant for that body.

### Process and sale notice forms of Civil Courts.

**86. Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in all civil suits, forms of processes and sale notices used to be supplied by the Government?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that since the outbreak of the last war, Government have discontinued the practice?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this discontinuance?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble the High Court has issued orders permitting private parties to get the forms printed at their own expense?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the cost so incurred, is included in the cost of the suit itself?

(*f*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of reverting to the old practice of supplying all these forms?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) The High Court have, with the consent of the local Government, permitted private presses to print and sell all civil court forms which are required by suitors.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

**87. Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say what steps he proposes to take for removing the scarcity of drinking water in the rural areas?

**Rural water-supply.**

(*b*) From what sources does the Hon'ble the Minister propose to meet the cost of these works?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) Government cannot undertake ordinarily to provide funds in the form of grants from provincial revenues for rural water-supply, as this is a local need which is more properly a charge on the funds of local bodies.

**Extension of local train service on the central section of the Eastern Bengal Railway.**

**88. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to my unstarred question No. 123 and the reply given thereto on the 10th July, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of directing the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway that so long as the position of that railway does not improve in regard to rolling stock and locomotives, the existing local train services upto and from Dattapukur, should be extended upto Gobardanga at least?

(*b*) If the reply is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state how such an extension can involve the question of more rolling stocks and locomotives?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Government is unable to make any statement as the working of the Railway is not under its control or administration.

**Scholarships to students of backward classes.**

**89. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether circular letters have been sent to all the schools and colleges inviting applications for scholarships for the students of the backward classes; and

(*ii*) whether the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectors of Schools have been directed to deal with them promptly?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) No. The scholarships which are being instituted for students of these classes will be awarded on the results of University and school examinations, and special measures to secure applications are not yet necessary. Steps, however, are being taken to make the intentions of the Government known to the necessary parties.

(*ii*) The Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectors of Schools have received instructions to deal promptly with these cases.

**Dilpashar station on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway.**

**90. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to reduce the status of the Dilpashar station, on the Sara-Sirajganj Railway line, to a flag station?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the next station is the Lahiri Mohanpur station, to which passengers will have to resort for their trains in case of the conversion of Dilpashar station into a flag station?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that this will result in intending passengers having to cross two rivers to get to the Lahiri Mohanpur station?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister considering the desirability of asking the authorities of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway line to reconsider the case further, before arriving at a final decision regarding the proposal relating to the future status of the Dilpashar station?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) No.

(*d*) The attention of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, will be drawn to the subject matter of the question.

**"Khaddar" and Government servants.**

**91. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that any clerk has been suspended and dismissed for wearing *khaddar* in office?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) who was the clerk thus dismissed;

(*ii*) what is the name of the officer who dismissed the clerk;

(*iii*) whether any explanation was called for from the officer;

(*iv*) what steps were taken against that officer; and

(*v*) whether there is any order prohibiting Government servants from wearing *khaddar*?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) One clerk was punished for wearing *khaddar* in office, but the order of punishment was reversed by Government.

(*b*) (*i*) Second clerk of the office of the Political Agent, Tripura.

(*ii*) The Political Agent, Tripura.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) The matter was dealt with on appeal.

(*v*) No.

**Alleged accidents to cattle on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway.**

**92. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) been drawn to the frequent accidents to cattle which occur on the Sara-Sirajganj Railway line?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the absence of wire on both sides of the said Railway line?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the prevention of accidents to the cattle on both sides of the said line?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No steps have been taken but the subject of the question will now be brought to the attention of the Railway authorities.

**Inspector-General of Police.**

**93. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Inspector-General of Police has been promoted to the post of Inspector-General by superseding the claims of several other gentlemen of the Service?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) and (*b*) The post of Inspector-General of Police is filled by selection and no officer has a claim to it by virtue of seniority alone.

**Rural water-supply.**

**94. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government been drawn to the great scarcity of drinking water in the country?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he has taken to cope with the distress?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) The Minister is aware that the ordinary scarcity of drinking water which tends to occur during the hot weather in certain districts has been accentuated this year owing to the long drought.

(*b*) The provision of local water-supply in rural areas must be regarded primarily as the responsibility of the local bodies and Government cannot agree ordinarily to apply provincial funds in the form of grants for the solution of this problem. This important question is, however, receiving the careful attention of the Local Self-Government Department. A separate anti-malaria branch is being established and the question of water-supply in rural areas will receive its attention in connection with the use of tank irrigation for the abatement of malaria conditions.

**Proposed levy of cotton cess on commercial cotton.**

**95. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a proposal for the levy of a cotton cess on commercial cotton crop is under consideration?

(*b*) If so, what views have been expressed by this Government in this matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) Yes. The proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(*b*) The recommendations of the local Government cannot be disclosed.

## Culverts along the Tarakessur Branch of the East Indian Railway and the Bengal Provincial Railway.

**96. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that some breaches occurred in the Tarakessur Branch of the East Indian Railway and in the Bengal Provincial Railway in the month of June last?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the said Railway authorities to construct more culverts and bridges along the said lines where the breaches occurred and in places where congestion of water generally takes place?

(*c*) What is the average measurement of a culvert?

(*d*) Is there any rule regarding the openings which should be made in a mile?

(*e*) If so, is that rule strictly observed?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) No information has been received from the Railways concerned.

(*b*) No. This Government cannot require Railway administrations to provide additional accommodation works at their cost, *vide* section 11 of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

(*c*) It depends on the span and height of the culvert as designed to meet the particular requirements of the locality.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

## Burdwan Land Acquisition Office.

**97. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is in contemplation to remove the Land Acquisition Office from Burdwan to Asansol;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the office has been at Burdwan from its very installation;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the Land Acquisition Office at Burdwan does work for the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly and Howrah and that there are several big schemes for the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, which will entail larger expenses if the office is transferred to Asansol;

(*iv*) whether he is aware that the public will be inconvenienced for the want of suitable accommodation and good drinking water in the hot weather if the office is transferred to Asansol; and

(*v*) whether it is a fact that the office at Asansol will have to pay a much higher house rent than at Burdwan and the officers will have to be given more travelling allowances?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The Land Acquisition Office at Burdwan does work for the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Hooghly. It is reported that most of the land acquisition projects are grouped round Asansol and many of them are in the immediate neighbourhood of that place. For that reason the question of expense can hardly be said to arise.

(*iv*) Government are making inquiries pending which no final orders will issue.

(*v*) The house rent is somewhat higher, but one of the reasons for the change is the saving on account of travelling allowance which is expected to accrue.

## Travelling expenses of members of Council attending meetings of the Indian Legislature.

**98. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is the Government of India or the Provincial Government who pay for the expenses of the official and non-official members of Council who go to the Government of India to attend meetings of the Indian Legislature?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the official members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State take two and four peons as orderlies, respectively, with them? Who pays for the travelling and other expenses of these peons?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the number of peons who accompany the members?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The Government of India.

(*b*) On one occasion three peons were taken by an official member. The number usually taken hitherto is two. The travelling and other expenses are borne by this Government.

(*c*) Government have decided that one orderly only will be allowed in future to official members.

## Admission of Muhammadan students into Dacca School of Engineering.

**99. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only two Muhammadan students have been admitted this year to the upper subordinate course of the Dacca Ashanullah School of Engineering? If so, why?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state separately the number of Hindu and Muhammadan students admitted into that school during this year?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Four Muhammadan students have been admitted to this course. Existing admission rules do not sanction preference to any special class of the community. Vacancies are filled up first by those applicants who have won scholarships, then in order of merit after interview. The rules are, however, being reconsidered.

(*b*) Upper subordinate: 70 Hindus, 4 Muhammadans. Lower subordinate: 57 Hindus, 5 Muhammadans.

## Subordinate Educational Service.

**100. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as an effect of the reorganization of the Educational Services below the Bengal Educational Service, some M.A.'s, B.T.'s, B.A.'s, and some other highly qualified classical teachers, who were in the Subordinate Educational Service, have been placed on Rs. 60—4—160, whereas some matriculates have been placed on Rs. 75—5—200?

(*b*) If so, what are the reasons which have led the Government to make this distinction?

(*c*) Are the Government contemplating taking early steps to do away with this anomaly?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) It is a fact.

(*b*) The explanation is to be found in the nature of the duties which these teachers were performing when the services were reorganised. The new scales were determined according to the nature and importance of the duties of the different classes of officers. English teachers in High Schools have been placed on Rs. 75—5—150—5—200: Senior classical teachers on Rs. 60—4—120—4—160. Certain teachers in the latter category have qualifications suitable for the former category, but while they are employed as classical teachers Government derive little advantage from their superior qualifications for other work. The scale of Rs. 75—5—150—5—200 is intended for English teachers, and all who were performing these duties at the time of the reorganization were put into that scale. In this way some teachers with humble university qualifications have been given a rate of pay which otherwise they could not have obtained, but it is the intention of Government to recruit only graduates into this category in future, and present anomalies, due to unsatisfactory recruiting in the past, will gradually disappear.

(*c*) The Director of Public Instruction intends to consider these cases as opportunity arises, with a view to removing the anomalies, but it is not possible to give any other definite undertaking: the value of the degree for school work will have to be taken into consideration in each case.

**Persons dealt with under Criminal Procedure Code for political work.**

**101. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** With reference to the answer given to my unstarred question No. 8 on the 3rd July, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many of the 271 persons, against whom orders for the execution of bonds under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code were passed, having refused to execute such bonds, had to undergo imprisonment; and

(*ii*) how many of the 108 persons, dealt with under section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, having refused to execute the bonds, had to undergo imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** As explained in the reply to the question referred to the information desired is not readily available.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what were his reasons for asking a fresh

notice of this very question when I put it to him on the last occasion, if no answer is to be given when a formal notice was given?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I refrained from answering this question on the last occasion because I wanted to find if any information was available; after inquiry it is found that no information is available.

### Picketing of foreign cloths in Calcutta.

**102. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many persons engaged in picketing of foreign cloths, have been arrested in Calcutta since Tuesday, the 25th July, 1922;

(*ii*) how many of them have been released without conviction;

(*iii*) how many of them have been convicted and on what charges;

(*iv*) to what different punishments have they been sentenced; and

(*v*) if they have been sentenced for picketing itself, when and under what law was it declared unlawful?

(*b*) Was any of them arrested upon complaint by any private person?

(*c*) If so, how many were so arrested and what was the nature of such complaints?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Sixty-two persons arrested from 25th July, 1922, to 12th August, 1922.

(*ii*) Ten released without conviction (six without being sent to Court).

(*iii*) Fifty-two have been convicted under section 283, Indian Penal Code.

(*iv*) Two fined Rs. 4 or in default detained till the rising of the Court. Five fined Rs. 10, in default 15 days' simple imprisonment. Two fined Re. 1 each, in default detained till the rising of the Court. One fined Rs. 25 or in default to two months' simple imprisonment. Forty-two fined Rs. 10 or in default one month's simple imprisonment.

(*v*) The question does not arise.

(*b*) No individual was arrested on a complaint by private persons, but general complaints were laid by private persons to the police.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

### Condition of certain schools in Gopalganj subdivision of Faridpur.

**103. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that there have been

repeated failures of crops in the Muksudpur, Kasiani and Gopalganj thanas of the Faridpur district during the last 8 or 9 years, and that this has told on the condition of the majority of the schools, especially the middle English schools?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making liberal grants for improving the condition of those schools?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) No reports to this effect have been received by the Education Department.

(*b*) The Inspector of Schools has been asked to report, but no provision for liberal additional grants exists.

### Namasudra candidates for Sub-Registrarships.

**104. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Namasudra candidates applied for Sub-Registrarships last year;

(*ii*) how many of such candidates were nominated for Sub-Registrarships; and

(*iii*) the reasons why no one was appointed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) Two.

(*ii*) None.

(*iii*) They were not appointed as they were nominated neither by the Commissioners of Divisions nor by the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, under the rules for appointment in the Registration Department.

### Summary procedure for recovery of rents by zamindars.

**105. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the circular authorising a good landholder of Bengal to collect rents under section 7 of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

(*b*) What qualifications are necessary for a landholder being called "good"?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) No such circular exists relating to either that section or section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

## Union Benches and Courts in Tippera.

**106. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many of the Union Boards in each police-station out of the total number in each of the subdivisions of the Tippera district have been vested with the powers of Union Benches and Courts, and what are the dates of such notifications in the *Calcutta Gazette*; and

(*ii*) how many Muhammadans and non-Muhammadans have been vested with such powers in each of the Union Boards?

(*b*) Is it correct that none of the Union Boards under the Sadar and the Chandpur subdivisions of the Tippera district are vested with the powers of Union Courts under section 73 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919? If so, why?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in accordance with the notification of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, a few competent Union Boards having the powers of Union Benches, asked for the Union Courts, but their requests were not recommended by the District Magistrate of Tippera? If so, why?

(*d*) Was the reason for non-investment put down to the want of education?

(*e*) What are the figures of educated men in the Sadar and the Brahmanbaria subdivisions of the Tippera district?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes. No such proposal came up to Government for sanction.

(*c*) It was considered advisable to give the Union Boards time to acquire some judicial experience by means of Union Benches before investing them with the additional powers of Union Courts.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement showing Union Benches and Union Courts in the district of Tippera as referred to in the reply to clauses (a) (i) and (ii) of unstarred question No. 106.*

| Police-stations. | Total number of Union Boards. | Number of Union Boards having Union Benches and Courts. | Number of Union Benches. | Number of Union Courts. | Number of Muhammadan members vested with powers of Union Benches and Courts. | Number of non-Muhammadan members vested with powers of Union Benches and Courts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| **Brahmanbaria Subdivision—** | | | | | | |
| Brahmanbaria ... ... | 73 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sarail .. ... | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Nasirnagar .. | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Kasba .. ... | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Nabinagar ... .. | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Rasulabad .. | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Bancharampur .. | | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 |
| **Sadar Subdivision—** | | | | | | |
| Muradnagar .. ... | 111 | 6 | 6 | | 8 | 10 |
| Debidwar ... ... | | 5 | 5 | | 8 | 7 |
| Daudkandi ... .. | | 7 | 7 | ... | 11 | 10 |
| Homna .. ... | | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 2 |
| Comilla .. | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kotwali .. .. | | 5 | 5 | . | 9 | 6 |
| Burichang .. .. ... | | 6 | 6 | ... | 8 | 10 |
| Chandina ... ... | | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 4 |
| Chauddagram ... ... ... | | 6 | 6 | .. | 10 | 8 |
| Laksam ... .. ... | | 3 | 3 | .. | 2 | 7 |
| **Chandpur Subdivision—** | | | | | | |
| Hajiganj .. .. ... | 70 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Kachua .. ... ... | | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 |
| Chandpur ... ... ... | | 7 | 7 | ... | 13 | 13 |
| Faridganj ... ... ... | | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 5 |
| Matlabbazar ... .. ... | | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 5 |
| Total ... | 254 | 65 | 65 | 5 | 92 | 112 |

The notification numbers are—

(1) 1514 J., and 1515 J., dated 2nd May, 1921.
(2) 1868 J., dated 25th May, 1921.
(3) 2349 J., dated 29th June, 1921.
(4) 1626 J., dated 21st March, 1922.
(5) 2694 J., dated 28th April, 1922.

*Statement showing the number of educated men in the Sadar and Brahmanbaria subdivisions of the Tippera district as referred to in the reply to clause (e) of unstarred question No. 106.*

| Subdivision. | | Number of literate in vernacular. | | Number of literate in English. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female. | Male. | Female. |
| Brahmanbaria | ... | 54,655 | 5,200 | 8,472 | 139 |
| Sadar | ... | 1,07,242 | 9,186 | 14,372 | 686 |

**Establishment of a union committee at Haturia in Pabna.**

**107. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of establishing a union committee at Haturia, a village of the Pabna district?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** No such proposal is at present before Government. The Village Self-Government Act has been extended to Pabna and proposals by the local officers for the establishment of unions are awaited.

**Kala-azar in Burdwan.**

**108. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of the fact that kala-azar is spreading in the district of Burdwan?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) Statements made in the press and by local medical practitioners have already led the Director of Public Health to inquire into the prevalence of kala-azar in the Burdwan municipality. Dr. Sur, Assistant Director of Public Health, visited 35 families consisting of 125 persons (61 males and 64 females). Two men were diagnosed as suffering from kala-azar. A previous inquiry by Dr. Sur in which inquiries were made in 50 families in Kanchannagore (Burdwan) had led to the discovery of two cases. These two inquiries taken together show that four cases were detected in 85 families. The percentage must be regarded as high, but at any rate shows a less alarming prevalence of the disease than local opinion had indicated. An assistant in the department had already made elaborate inquiries and detected in all 5 cases in Kanchannagore of which two were the cases independently diagnosed by Dr. Sur.

On the outskirts of the town, malaria is very prevalent and careful inquiry brought 29 cases of kala-azar to light. Inquiries were made in

Galsi thana in which 54 villages were inspected. Eighteen villages, *i.e.*, 33⅓ per cent. were found to be infected, 28 persons being diagnosed as suffering from the disease.

Steps have already been taken to provide free treatment for kala azar patients. The local medical practitioners have generously undertaken such treatment without remuneration, while a kala-azar ward has been opened in the Fraser Hospital and has been placed in charge of an Assistant Surgeon who did excellent work in connection with kala-azar in Noakhali. A section of the Public Health Department is engaged on a kala-azar survey in the course of which remedial treatment follows on investigation.

### Typists and copyists of courts.

**109. Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state, what steps, if any, have been taken on the resolution passed by this Council in the August Session of 1921 regarding the organization of the typists and copyists of the civil, revenue, and criminal courts, into a regular establishment with fixed pay?

(*b*) If no steps have been taken, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reason therefor?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) and (*b*) The matter of improving the conditions of service is still under consideration, but Government are not prepared to convert the typists and copyists now paid by fees into ministerial officers on fixed pay—as in its opinion such work as they do, should be paid for as piece-work.

### Rule prohibiting members of Text-Book Committee to write text-books.

**110. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) there is a rule in force that no member of the Text-Book Committee is entitled to write any book for Primary, Middle English and High English Schools; and

(*ii*) that Dr. T. O. Dunn, the Secretary to the Text-Book Committee and a member of the Central Text-Book Committee has compiled books for use in Primary Schools in accordance with the revised curriculum?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this departure from the rule?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) (*i*) There is no such rule, but the question of framing such a rule is under consideration.

(*ii*) It is not a fact. Dr. Dunn has revised certain English sections of an Anglo-Bengali Reader, in which he has, and has had, no pecuniary interest.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

## Realisation of fees from certain clubs for erection of temporary structures on Calcutta Maidan.

**111. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the Government realise any money from the Royal Calcutta Turf Club and the Golf Club for the erection of structures on the Calcutta Maidan?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The Royal Calcutta Turf Club pays one gold mohur a year under the terms of its lease. The Royal Calcutta Golf Club pays Rs. 20 a month and the Ladies' Golf Club Rs. 5 a month.

## Jute mills strikes.

**112. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the facts in relation to the recent strikes in the Khardah, Titagarh and Kankinarah Jute Mills;

(*ii*) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to effect a conciliation;

(*iii*) what are the names of industrial concerns who have adopted Government recommendations to constitute Works Committees and with what results?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Welfare Committees established in a number of factories in Bombay Presidency are working successfully?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps to induce owners of large industrial establishments and coal mines in Bengal to constitute similar committees?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*) (*i*) The facts of the recent jute mills strikes are as follows:—On the 4th July the weavers of the Khardah Mills went on strike complaining of the quality of the yarn supplied to them. On the 17th July, the weavers of the Titagarh and Kamarhatty Mills went out demanding the rates of pay alleged to have been granted as the result of a strike in the Wellington Mill at Rishra on the opposite bank of the river. The Khardah weavers thereupon put forward the same wage demand. Owing to the weavers' strike, the three mills, employing about 32,000 workpeople in all, had to close down. The strike ended on the 31st July at Kamarhatty and on the 1st August at Khardah and Titagarh. Work was resumed unconditionally in each case.

Government have no information about a recent strike in the Kankinarah Jute Mills.

(*ii*) Government were kept informed of the situation daily, but did not think it advisable to intervene.

(*iii*) Government have no definite information regarding the individual concerns which have adopted Works Committees as the result of the recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Unrest in Bengal appointed in March, 1921. From the information available, it is understood that the experience of those who have tried to adopt the recommendations has not been encouraging, mainly owing to the reluctance of the workers to entrust their interests to representatives.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It is not a matter in which Government can take any direct action. A pamphlet containing suggestions for the constitution of Joint Works Committees was issued last year to the principal Chambers, to Labour and other Associations, and to local bodies and officials. Copies of the pamphlet were also distributed to the press. The advice and assistance of the Labour Intelligence Officer are always available to any persons contemplating the establishment of Joint Works Committees.

### Defalcation of Court-fee stamps in Bakarganj Treasury.

**113. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in regard to the misappropriation of Rs. 37,000 derived from Stamp and Court-fees from the Barisal Collectorate?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** An unfortunate incident happened in the last session of the Council in the debate in connection with the grant for the Paper-Book Department of the High Court. I am sorry that the hon'ble member, instead of withdrawing the remarks made by him, thought of withdrawing from the House. I think the House expects that the hon'ble member should know that he has a moral duty to the House, and he will be acting in the best traditions of the House and of Parliament if he withdraws unconditionally the remarks made by him to which the Chair took exception.

The Deputy-President then looked towards Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, but the member remained seated. [After a pause.]

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Well, I cannot do anything more. I leave the matter in the hands of the House.

## Circular letters from Retrenchment Committee.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Gentlemen, probably you are aware that I have circulated two circular letters received by me from the Retrenchment Committee, and I intend to sit—I hope you will all, so far as the non-official members are concerned, make it a point to remain here—after the Council meeting is over to-day and discuss our plan of action in this connection. I hope we shall be able to finish our business of the day by 5 or 5-30 P.M. at the latest.

## Supplementary Estimates.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** The supplementary estimates, which are being presented to the Council this session, make no material change in the financial position of the Government of Bengal, and it is unnecessary for me, therefore, to say very much about the matter. The Council will remember that in the July session I explained that we expected to have a revenue surplus of 20 lakhs of rupees after the passing of the taxation Bills, and that we proposed, in addition, to draw a sum of Rs. 30,00,000 from the balance to meet the cost of a number of urgent schemes mostly on the transferred side. That makes available the sum of Rs. 50,00,000 for ordinary revenue expenditure, and besides that we are reserving a sum of Rs. 10,00,000 to meet anticipated loan charges. Of the sum of Rs. 50,00,000, the Council at the last session voted Rs. 34,00,000, and the demands which we put before them in this session total up another Rs. 8,67,000. These demands will come before the Council in detail next week.

## Legislative Business.

## Government Bills.

### The Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Excise Act, 1909.

I need not take up much time in explaining the object of the Bill. It will be recollected that a few months ago, this Council passed a resolution to the effect that the sale of intoxicating articles to persons under 16 years of age should be prohibited. This resolution involves the amendment of the Excise Act which, as at present, only prohibits the sale of intoxicating articles to persons under the age of 14. The Bill has been drafted with the object of giving effect to the resolution passed by the Council, and I move for leave to introduce it.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**Rai Sahib PANCHANAN BARMA:** I move that in clause 2 for the words "sixteen years" the words "eighteen years" be substituted.

My reason for doing so is that until a boy reaches the age of 18, he is not a full man; he is a half man. He requires some one to guide him in all his actions. In matters of getting liquor, etc., he must have a guide who can exercise discretion, till he becomes a full man. So, I beg to submit that the age might be raised from 16 to 18 years.

**Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** I beg to move that in clause 2 for the words "sixteen years" the words "eighteen years" be substituted.

My reason is very simple. Under the Indian Majority Act, the age for adult person is fixed at 18 and, under the law, I presume that a man cannot have his intelligence fully developed before he attains 18. So, I propose that the words "eighteen years" be substituted for "sixteen years."

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I beg to support this amendment.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** delivered his speech in Bengali in support of this amendment, a translation of which is as follows:—

I moved a resolution in this Council protesting against the selling of excisable articles to children under sixteen years of age, and that resolution was passed. I said on that occasion, it is not at all desirable to use excisable articles. It is strictly forbidden in all countries, in all ages, and in all *shastras*. It is, however, irrelevent to dwell upon this topic here. But it must be admitted on all hands that this is a matter which excites contempt, and as such, the proposal to amend this Act has been moved by me. Sir, according to the existing law of the land, no one attains majority before the age of eighteen. Hence it is eminently desirable that 18 years should be fixed as the age-limit with a view to saving these youngsters from commiting an act which almost amounts to sin. I, therefore, strongly support the motion.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I oppose these resolutions. My ground for doing so is that it will make the Act difficult to enforce in practice. An excise vendor cannot require all his customers to produce their age certificates when they come to him for the supply of intoxicating articles. He has to use his discretion, and what happens in practice is that he refuses to sell such articles to any person who appears to him to be under the prohibited age. It is, on the whole, comparatively easy to estimate the age of a person up to 16 years, because he is still immature. After 16 years, however, the difficulty of judging a person's age increases, specially the labouring classes who chiefly use Intoxicating articles A young labourer of 17 or 18 is of mature physique and there will be very great difficulty in deciding whether he is under 18 or not. It is no doubt on account of this practical difficulty that the age-limit has been fixed at 16 in the case of the Bengal Children Act and the Juvenile Smoking Act. It is not advisable to pass a measure which it is difficult to enforce, and I consider that if the age-limit is raised above 16 years, great practical difficulties will arise, and it will be almost impossible to secure a conviction for breaches of the law. I may add also that persons above sixteen acquire sufficient maturity of understanding to decide for themselves whether they should use intoxicants and as such they do not require any protection of law. I therefore ask the Council to reject these amendments.

The motion was put and lost.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I move that the Bill, as settled in Council, be now passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## The Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922. Unfortunately, the Select Committee was not able to present an unanimous report. The Bill contains two points: firstly, the removal of the maximum pay of the chaukidar. On that point the Committee is unanimous. On the other point, that is, raising the maximum of taxation, the Committee was not in agreement. The majority of the Committee went as far as they thought they could in meeting the objections and they proposed to reduce the maximum taxation from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8-0. The minority of the Committee were unable to agree to that and wished to leave the maximum taxation as it is at present. There are two amendments which will be discussed by the Council shortly bearing on that particular point and therefore it would be best to reserve my remarks on that point till we get to those amendments. I therefore present the report and move that the Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration. It is perhaps unnecessary at this stage to add anything further to the remarks I have already made. There are, I am glad to say, not very many amendments and I propose to deal with them as they are moved.

**Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** I shall, to begin with, deal with the proposed amendment to section 12 of the Bengal Village-Chaukidari Act intending to do away with the fixed maximum of Rs. 6 of the chaukidar's pay with a view to enhance the same. It is said that Rs. 6 a month is not enough. The proposal is in effect to give a blank cheque with a proviso that the drawer should consider the views of the village panchayet in putting the amount on. I leave it to the Council to consider what would be the views of the village panchayats in general when, at the recommendation of the Circle Officers and the Subdivisional Officers, the District Magistrates would think of putting in a certain figure. It may be noted that the panchayets of chaukidari unions are appointed by the District Magistrates on the nomination of the Circle Officers and the Subdivisional Officers and that they are not elected by the taxpayers, as the members of the union boards are, under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act. Here I beg to submit that I never for a moment question the honesty of purpose of these officers. But everyone is not a Mr. Birley or Mr. Cook who has gone deep into the matter. There are persons who honestly believe that the chaukidar's status can be raised by the enhancement of his pay and there are others who believe them to be whole-time servants.

My first contention against the proposed change is that the chaukidars do very little work directly to the advantage of the villagers who pay for them. Their present pay of Rs. 6 is thought to be sufficient for the purpose, as they are not whole-time servants, even under the Bengal

Village Self-Government Act, in a union board, less under a chaukidari union. There is no need to make them whole-time servants, in connection with their village duties, as was the deliberate opinion of the Bengal District Administration Committee, unless the whole of their services are in demand by the police when occasion calls for it. This was also the proposal of Mr. E. G. Hart, Superintendent of Police on special duty, (*vide* Bengal District Administration Committee's Report, page 93). In that case the money should come from elsewhere and the villagers should not be taxed for the same.

The most important part of the chaukidars' duties, so far as the tax-payers are concerned, are supposed to be at night when they are expected to go round the villages to protect the villagers from the attention of the nocturnal prowling miscreants. The experience of "The American Girl in India," of a chaukidar, "the Foundation Stone of the British Constitution in India," is shared by the villagers themselves and I submit that he does very little. The chaukidars are virtually the masters of their own time and consequently they get sufficient time to look after their own field or to work for others and are, therefore, better off than others of their class who are servants of the cultivators, as they are made to work from sunrise to sunset in all weathers with deductions for sickness and absence on leave. The chaukidars do not lose anything by slack time, holidays or a few days' illness at a time. Moreover they are exempted from the tax.

It may be that there are a few places, like the Asansol coal-fields, where wager sae higher for the particular class of men and in the words of Mr. De, the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, "where there are numerous big firms who could rightly be assessed at Rs. 24, or even more, or, as I was told as the District Magistrate thinks they will pay gladly." All these are very good in their own way and better still when a subterranean attempt is being made for the separation and creation of Asansol as a district. But, Sir, the entire subdivision is not peopled by "big firms." But whatever it may be, the whole of the province should not be made to suffer for it and for a particular class. I, as Chairman of the Burdwan District Board, was asked by the Magistrate of the District to give my opinion on the Bill and after consulting most of the members of the Board and others best suited to give such opinion, I submitted it. Unfortunately for myself, it was against the Bill and it was thought by the District Magistrate, a new comer to the District, that the members of the District Board whom I consulted as well as myself were unacquainted with the Subdivision of Asansol! I may here mention that one of these members worked for over a quarter of a century as the Vice-Chairman of the Board, for over twenty years is working as the Public Prosecutor, and that another has been in the Board for about thirty years, and that we all belong to the district. I have some connection with the said subdivision apart from being Chairman of the District Board,

I think, Sir, any further comment is unnecessary. It should be borne in mind that half of the subdivision is outside the colliery area and the conditions there are as in the rest of the district. As the Magistrate is in the district for a few months only, I think this was unknown to him. My opinion and his comments may be seen in Paper No. 6 of the Chaukidari Amendment Bill.

Then, Sir, inasmuch as the wages are higher in the coal-fields, the chaukidars there earn more by working in their leisure hours than elsewhere. Moreover, before very long the Asansol Subdivision is going to have union boards all through it and in a short time there will hardly be any place left in the province which will not come under Union Boards. If that be so, I do not see what is the urgent necessity for the proposed change, as according to the section 21 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, the pay of the chaukidars may be determined for any locality according to the distinct conditions prevailing there. It may be said that for reasons, I must say most unfortunate reasons, as in the Contai Subdivision in the district of Midnapore, if the Bengal Village Self-Government Act is withdrawn in favour of the Chaukidari Act in any area, and if the chaukidars used to get a higher pay than Rs. 6 a month under the former Act there, they cannot be allowed the higher pay without the proposed change. In my humble opinion an amendment to section 12 of the Act to suit the case would have been better.

I venture to say that the proposed change will remain a dead letter of the law if, for reasons as at Contai, the Bengal Village Self-Government Act is withdrawn from any place in favour of the Chaukidari Act and if the opinion of the panchayets are considered at all, as proposed. I cannot put the point better than Mr. Cook, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, an officer, no one will deny, of great repute and experience. He said that the proposed alteration in section 12 of the Act is of small importance and wrong. In the present day, in the district of Midnapore, not a single panchayet will dare to agree to the raising of the pay of chaukidars, and this is the only point on which, as salaries are concerned, the District Magistrates would have to consult them. He adds that when the idea is sufficiently instilled into the ordinary countrymen's head that chaukidars are useless he is not likely to agree to their pay being raised.

I would now draw special attention to what was said by no other personage than Mr. Birley, the District Magistrate of Chittagong (not very long ago the District Magistrate of Burdwan), than whom it has seldom been my lot to see a more level-headed and judicious District Officer; and I cannot resist the temptation to quote a few lines from his comments on the Bill (*vide* Paper No. 2)—

**The Bill will not be popular and if passed it will be followed by an insistent demand of all chaukidars to have their salaries raised alike in districts in which there is some difficulty in securing chaukidars and in those in which the present rates of salary are quite sufficient. I have not yet encountered any difficulty in**

securing chaukidars in any district in which I have served excepting in the Raneegunje coal-fields, which is abnormal. In many districts the present rate is sufficient in view of the work which it is possible to get out of the chaukidars. As a result of my experience I am inclined to leave the Act alone on the ground that when a panchayet has shown the capacity to get more than the value of Rs 6 a month out of a chaukidar, the union of the panchayet will have become fit to be a union board, and it will then be possible to raise the pay under section 21 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act.

I beg to lay great stress on the point that if this Bill is passed, it will be followed by an insistent demand of all chaukidars to have their pay raised even where there is no difficulty at present to get men at Rs. 6 a month, even at places which are under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act and whence there is no such demand at present. It will not be conducive to add to the widespread feeling against the union boards and I submit that only for some insignificant areas, which even are going to have union boards before long, there is no such hurry for the proposed change. I gather it from the Bengal Administration Committee's Report that even if one rupee more is given to each chaukidar it will cost over 10 lakhs of rupees to the villagers of Bengal.

With due deference to the Divisional (Burdwan) Commissioner's opinion, as expressed at the end of paragraph 3 of the Paper No. 6, I beg to submit that "excited feelings should not always be ignored."

I now come to the second or the last point which deals with the amendment of section 15 of the Act. The original proposal was to raise the maximum of the chaukidari tax by 100 per cent. which by the majority in the Select Committee has been recommended to 50 per cent., i.e., to raise the maximum to Rs. 18 a year in place of the present maximum of Rs. 12 a year, i.e., eight annas a month more. Seldom a union will be found where there is more than one person who has been assessed at the maximum, i.e., Rs. 12 and by raising the maximum, very little could be gained. If we put this number even as five in a union, the highest possible number that can be assessed at the maximum, again I say, not much will be gained. If the pay of the chaukidars is raised by Rs. 2 only their present pay of Rs. 6 a month, as it is in my district, and taking the average number of chaukidars to be fifteen in a union you will have to find out Rs. $2 \times 15 \times 12 =$ Rs. 360 more from the union. By raising the maximum by eight annas a month, you get As. $8 \times 5 \times 12 =$ Rs. 30 only and that leaves Rs. 330 to be raised in addition from others, who, consequently, will have to be touched as well.

I have worked for over fifteen years as a president of a chaukidari union and was intimately connected with all that concerned the system from its very beginning and my submission is that I fully agree with Mr. Cook, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, that enough could be got with the Re. 1 limit to pay extra wages to the chaukidars if only the assessments were equitable (*vide* Paper No. 6). Mr. Frazer, District Magistrate, Rungpore, truly said: "The panchayets are not to be trusted to be fair in making assessments." Mr, Cook and he make mention

of concrete cases as may be seen in Papers Nos. 6 and 2, respectively. The Secretary, Anjumani Islamia, Chandpur, very rightly said. "Through the clever tact of the village Panchayets it is these dumb fellows who are made to pay the whole of the chaukidari tax" (*vide* Paper No. 2).

If the maximum is raised it will hit the harder, the inarticulate mass, more than any one else. The truth of this will be evident if the assessments of a few unions are scrutinized. It may be said that unless the maximum is raised, the assessment will be inequitable, as on examination it will transpire, I daresay, and what is needed is equitable assessment and nothing else.

There are talks of raising the status of the chaukidars. I think I am too dull-headed to understand the import of these. I come from the interior of a village and I live there amongst the mass and I am expected to know them intimately. A chaukidar is a chaukidar and shall remain so even if you pay him four times as much as he is getting now. With four times the pay no one of a better class will come forward to don his uniform and shoulder the proverbial *lathi*. It will be very difficult to get Epaminondas for chaukidarships, at least in Bengal!

Allow me to finish my humble exhortation with the following summary for the consideration of the Hon'ble Member in charge, that the chaukidari tax is the most odious of all the taxes, as the villagers do not get any tangible return for it; the chaukidars do very little work—they are not whole-time servants—and it is thought that they enjoy their pay as "pensions." It is a direct tax, and levied often very inequitably. There is no reason to believe that by raising the maximum the panchayets will henceforth become, as we call, *Dharmaputra Yudhistira*, and the maximum will govern the other assessments and the poor shall not be roped in and that they will have a chance of escape. Again I say that very little will be gained by raising the maximum and I pray that the Bill may be dropped.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The attack made on the Bill is mainly made on the ground that it is not necessary to raise the pay of the chaukidar. I do not propose to discuss the other point—the question of raising the maximum taxation—because I trust that the House is going to take the Bill into consideration and I shall have a further opportunity of discussing that question. The Raja Sahib has said that there is no necessity for this Bill. I can only say that for the last three years our District Officers have been pressing upon us the absolute necessity for raising the maximum of chaukidars' pay. The hon'ble member seems to me to be going in a vicious circle. He says we get no work from these people and, therefore, we cannot pay them more; we cannot pay them more because we do not get much work from them. If we pay them more, we shall be able to get something, and it is the deliberate opinion of almost all the District Officers in the province

that the only hope of getting the chaukidari system on a sound basis is to make the chaukidar desirous of keeping his employment and making other people desirous of getting employment as chaukidar. At present, the chaukidar cannot be easily sacked and if you do dispense with his services, you can get nobody to take his place. There are many districts in which it will not be necessary to raise the maximum pay of the chaukidar and in those districts the Act will remain a dead letter. But practically in the whole of Western Bengal, there is not a single district with the exception of Mr. Cook's district—I am coming to it later on—which does not report that it is absolutely necessary to get rid of the maximum.

As regards the quotations from the report of the District Magistrate of Midnapore, I think that the hon'ble member has rather misunderstood the attack which he says the Commissioner has made upon him. The Commissioner's report, as the House will see, is to the following effect:—

A strong attack on the Bill has, however, been made by Raja Maniloll Singh Roy, Chairman of the District Board, Burdwan a copy of whose letter and note dated the 18th ultimo is enclosed The District Magistrate of Burdwan says that the Chaukidari Act has been superseded in the greater part of Burdwan by the Village Self-Government Act The only part of that district where the Chaukidari Act is still in force is Asansol subdivision, an area of which the Raja has little acquaintance, and probably none of the members of the district board consulted by him knows much. As the only part of that district which will be affected by the Bill is Asansol subdivision, an area where wages are high, and there are numerous big firms who could rightly be assessed at Rs. 24, or even more, for the share of the cost of village chaukidars. Mr Hart is strongly of opinion that the Bill should be passed, and I agree with him.

There is nothing there about big firms which can pay Rs. 24 running the subdivision. The point of the Commissioner's report is that while not denying the great knowledge of the Raja Sahib of the Burdwan district, that knowledge is mainly confined to that part of the district which will not be affected by this Bill. As a last expiring cry Raja Maniloll Singh Roy has suggested that after all there is no necessity to trouble the Council with this small Bill now; why not wait until we get what we want by the introduction of the Village Self-Government Act? The Village Self-Government Act gives us what we want. The Raja Sahib is perfectly prepared to let us have what we want when the Act is extended; he does not object to our raising this maximum to Rs. 24 as we then have power to do. It is really only a polite way of putting the matter off. The necessity of the Bill I explained fully when I introduced it. The Village Self-Government Act received a bad check last year from the non-co-operation movement. We all trust that the Act will come into force as quickly as possible; but we have certainly learnt from the experience of last year that it is not possible that we shall be able to force the pace with regard to it. We must introduce it when the area is fit for it and wants it; also the extension of Village Self-Government Act is to a large extent conditioned by the number of Circle Officers whom we can employ. We have taken steps this year to recruit a consi-

derable number of Circle Officers, but we have not got nearly enough to enable us to extend the Village Self-Government Act to the whole of the province. Therefore, I trust that the Council will take the Bill into consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I have disallowed the following item because the matter is outside the scope of the Bill:—

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI** to move that in clause 2 after the word " salaries " the words " and numbers " be inserted.

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** May I rise to a point of order?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** What is the point of order?

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** The point that I want to raise is that once permission has been granted it cannot be revoked.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I have got the power of disallowing a motion at any stage.

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** I bow to your ruling. I beg to move my next amendment that in clause 2 for the words " after consideration of the views " the words " with the consent " be substituted.

I admit that at the present moment the substitution that I want to make in the Bill cannot be found in the Village Self-Government Act itself. In that respect it is an advance upon the Act of 1919. It ought to be, because we are now in the year 1922 and we ought to advance and if, in practice, it is found that this new section, as I want to frame it, prŏves a success, there ought to be also an amendment in the Act of 1919. Now as regards the necessity for this substitution my contention is that this phrase "after consideration of the views of the Board or Panchayet " is really a dead letter provision in the Act itself. What really takes place is this; the panchayet of the union board is asked to give its opinion but there are reasons to believe that as a matter of fact no effect is given to it. Besides the two factors considered in the Bill, viz., the panchayet or the union board and the District Magistrate, there is another factor which does not find a place in the Bill, but in reality is a factor, viz., the police. No recommendation of the panchayet or of the union board is really accepted without the concurrence of the police. Therefore, my point is that when it is admitted that the Chaukidari Bill is a very unpopular measure, when the pay of the chaukidars is going to be increased and when there is opposition to it the words " with the consent " be substituted for the words " after consideration of the views." The result of the substitution will be that it will throw greater responsibility on the panchayets and I submit that once that

responsibility is thrown on the panchayets, there is no reason why it should not properly exercise its responsibility and when there is a case made out for the increase of pay it will be the first to agree to it. When its consent is given to the increase, there will be smooth and efficient administration of the panchayet system in the mufassal. I therefore move that it is for the better and efficient administration of the panchayeti system in the mufassal that my amendment should be accepted.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved the following motions:—

That in clause 2 for the words "after consideration of" the words "in compliance with" be substituted.

That before the word "Panchayet" the words "majority of" be inserted.

That in clause 2 for the words "of the village" the words "of the chaukidari union" be substituted.

He addressed the Council in Bengali in support of his motions. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

My hon'ble colleague Raja Manilall Singh Roy has not been successful in carrying his motion in this Council in this regard. His objection seemed quite plausible, and from my experience as a member of the District and Local Boards, I can confidently assert that the imposition of the chaukidari tax is a grave injustice. During the Hindu and Mussalman rule in India, no sort of tax was imposed on the people for the maintenance of law and order. This tax has its inception since the establishment of the British rule in India. In the year 1793, Lord Cornwallis suggested that this tax should be met from the Stamp duties. I fail to see why that has not been done, and I have accordingly put in a question to that effect in this Council. If the Government can meet the expenses under the head "Town Police," then why should not they pay for this item also? Nobody should deny here that the country people are poorer than the towns people. And still the cost of the village watchmen falls on the shoulders of the villagers. From the report of the Bengal Village Police Investigation held by Mr. D. J. Macneil, it is apparent that the village watchman realised one anna from each thana, but the Government had no particular connection with the matter of realising taxes, etc. In 1876, the position of the watchmen was established as to the realisation of dues, etc., but in 1892, in accordance with an amending Act, their powers were greatly curtailed. Under these circumstances we view with apprehension the amendment of this Bill again. It seems to me that the sole object of the amendment of this Bill is to increase the pay of the chaukidars. But it is a matter of profound regret that although the money will be realised by sucking the life-blood of the poor villagers, the villagers will not be benefited in the least in return.

Originally there was a limitation in fixing the salaries of the chaukidars from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6. The Government want to do away with that

restriction now. At present chaukidars are available on Rs. 5 or 6 per month. So it is extremely undesirable to torture the poor by increasing the pay of the chaukidars. In the Chittagong Division, a persistent effort was made to increase the pay of the chaukidars. Mr. K. C. De, the late Commissioner, proposed to increase their pay to Rs. 8 per month.

However, I have nothing much to say about motions Nos. 14 and 15. I would prefer the insertion of the words "majority of " before the word " Panchayet," because in that case our purpose will be serve ' At the same time, I must observe here that the Magistrate should not fix the salaries, etc., of the chaukidars without consulting the panchayets.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that for the proposed new section 12 in clause 2, the following be substituted namely:—

" 12. Salaries of Chaukidars.—The salaries of chaukidars appointed for any village shall be determined by the panchayet of the village subject to the approval of the District Magistrate."

The amendment I propose is not a new thing. The corresponding section of the Act of 1870 ran as follows:—

" The panchayet shall, from time to time, determine the monthly salaries of chaukidars to be appointed."

It was only by section 8 of Act I of 1892 that this power was transferred or given to the District Magistrate, and that the character of the chaukidars as village servants was almost repudiated. That was regretted by the District Administration Committee. That was also regretted by the Police Commission of 1902-03. Thereafter, Mr. Savage proposed that the village chaukidars should be brought under the control of the panchayets, and it was with this object in view that he introduced what is known as the present system. I would therefore only go back to what was conceded by the Act of 1870. I do not propose any new thing. At the same time, I do not go so far as section 12 of the Act of 1870, because there the whole power was given to the panchayet to determine the pay of the village chaukidar; but here I only propose that the salaries of the chaukidars appointed for any village shall be determined by the panchayet of the village, subject to the approval of the District Magistrate. Here I have provided for the final voice of the District Magistrate in this matter. I think, therefore, that there need be no such apprehension on the point that if the power be conceded to the panchayets, uniformity will not be maintained, or that the panchayets will only be guided by their sweet will. That will not be the case. On the contrary, it will restore the position of the panchayets and at the same time emphasise the character of the village chaukidar as a village servant. I cannot understand why this power which was conceded by the Act of 1870 cannot be given to the panchayets now, even after 50 years. If the panchayets cannot be entrusted with this power and cannot be allowed to use their discretion in even so small

a matter as this, I do not understand why there are such tall talks of village self-government and all that. With these few words, I propose the amendment for the acceptance of the Council.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I have a motion similar to that moved by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri. This amendment goes to the root of the very cardinal principle of the Reforms. If I had my own way, I should have suggested that the question of the salary of the chaukidars should be left entirely at the discretion of the panchayets, but sad experience during the past sessions of this Council has convinced me that many members of this Council are so enamoured of the term "progressive" in connection with the realisation of responsible Government that they fight rather shy of being suspected of making too rapid a progress towards responsible Government; so, I have been obliged to add the words "subject to the approval of the Magistrate." I have made it very modest and I hope that this moderate Council will accept this amendment.

The main question involved in this amendment is, who is to be the final authority in determining the salaries of the chaukidars, who is to be the master—the people who have to find the money, or their Civil Servant the Magistrate. Even a cursory glance at the provisions of the Chaukidari Act of 1870 tells us what the attitude was in the pre-reform days. This Act gives absolute power to the District Magistrate. It is he who has the power of appointing the panchayet; it is he who has the power of fining people for refusing to serve as panchayets; it is he who has the power of determining the number of chaukidars to be appointed; it is he who has the power to determine their salaries, and to appoint, fine or dismiss the chaukidars. In fact, the Magistrate is supreme. His very word is law; his every sentence a decree. He has got all the majestic powers which were so fondly described by his now admirer, the great Prime Minister of England the other day. But, when the question of money arises, when it is necessary to find money to pay the chaukidars, what does this Act provide? Section 13 of the Chaukidari Act provides that it is the panchayet who is to find money for the salaries and equipment of chaukidars by assessment imposed on the householders. So, after all, there is some power left in the hands of the people. They have to find that money, they have to pay the money. A great power indeed!

Of course, all this was enacted more than 50 years ago, when the people were asleep—when the people were unconscious—when the people were in a torpor. But, now, in 1922, when the people have reawakened, when there is a new life pulsating through the country, when the very essence of responsible Government—"no representation—no taxation," is heard from one end of the province to the other, is there any member of this Council here, with soul so dead that he does not

feel the indignity, the humility of the position, when his salaried public servant, the District Magistrate, is to continue to be master for ever and for evermore? The Hon'ble Member in charge, himself has realised the absurdity of the position, because we find it suggested that the District Magistrate is to consider the opinion of the panchayets. But what value is there in this advisory character of the panchayet's opinion? We know the value of our resolutions even in this Council, because our resolutions are merely advisory. They can be put a stop to; they need not be acted upon. Let the people, who have to pay the money, have the real power. Let the Magistrate's opinion be advisory. We have no faith in the eternal superiority of the steel frame. In the light of the Reform Scheme if the Reform has any meaning at all—whether it is a bridge joining the old bureaucracy with full responsible Government—or whether it is an act of the British Parliament or whether it is a mere experiment, one thing must be made clear to everybody concerned—that the Magistrate or the administrative officer must remain content to be merely the public servant—the executive hand and nothing more. The final authority must pass into the hands of the people or their representatives. The old steel frame is getting rusty and hopelessly out of date, it must be supplanted by a new steel frame composed of the will of the people. This is the birthright of the people. No bogey of "sacred trust" or "high destiny" can deprive us of our divine right to live like men, to think like men, and to act like men.

**Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** Although not a mufassal member, I have followed with very great interest the speeches of the two previous speakers and I have also taken some interest in the progress of the Bill. I must say that I was a bit surprised when I read this Bill not to find a solitary provision that the Chaukidari tax shall be determined by the District Magistrate after consultation with the panchayet. I do not wish to enter into the merits of the questionwhether the chaukidari tax should be increased or not, but what strikes me as incongruious is that in the year of grace 1922, the Hon'ble framer of the Bill has stuck to the old wooden and antediluvian method of administration by providing consultation with the local body in the Bill.

What is the use of the words "after consultation with the panchayets, the District Magistrate will fix the salary of the chaukidar?" Is it necessary to have any statutory provision for this purpose? Surely as a matter of courtesy and form, the District Magistrate will consult the local bodies. Therefore, Sir, it will be merely deluding the people by simply inserting the words "after consultation with the village panchayet, etc." The consultation with the village panchayet would be like a consultation between a Member of Government and certain outside gentlemen by the issue of a courteous letter from the Secretariat as to "what do you think of this matter or that." I think it is an

insult to the intelligence of the people of the province in these progressive days. I think these words, therefore, should either be deleted altogether or the clause should be remodified in the way proposed by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta or by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq. I would prefer the latter because I do not want the authority of the District Magistrate to be altogether eliminated. The District Magistrate should have the power of supervision over the work of the local bodies. Their supervision and guidance are of invaluable help to local bodies, and I am sure they will try to guide these local bodies with tact and sympathy. I therefore think that the old wooden, antediluvian methods may be substituted in these progressive days by a more liberal delegation of power to the panchayets or village unions. Well, as has been correctly described by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, those who pay the piper have the right to call for the tune; therefore, the representatives of the people who pay the rates and taxes should be the masters of the situation subject to the guidance and control of the District Magistrate, as the case may be; but to leave everything in the hands of the District Magistrate and simply place the panchayet or village union in the position of an advisory body, would rather be an insult to the intelligence of the people.

I therefore oppose this part of the Bill.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I beg to support the amendment of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji. Sir, my teeth being bad I am afraid of speaking. I was told by a leading member of this Council that the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr heard that I used the word "cheat" instead of the word "*zud*" in connection with the debate regarding the grant to the Paper-Book Department—

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You ought not to make any reference to that matter.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I was only saying that on account of my bad teeth I was not heard properly. However, Sir, I beg to give my reason for supporting this amendment; and that is this: In the first place, as has been pointed out by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and other members, "after consultation, etc.," are terms that are meaningless and have got no legal binding force, and therefore they ought not to have any place in a legal enactment. Again, I suppose, it is contemplated that the consent of the village panchayet should be taken, and if the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson agrees to that, it will obviate a great many difficulties; for example, any objection to the increase of the rate from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8-0 will be avoided. Nobody will have any right to object to that; at least, I for my part will support the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson as regards that portion of clause 3 of the Bill, but if this consent inserted here is not accepted, then it will be my bounden duty to oppose clause 3 also; but if the

increase in salary is made with the consent of the panchayet and the rates and taxes are fixed by the panchayet, I suppose nobody has any right to object; and it may be conceded that the chaukidars are entitled to some increase of salary if the villagers can afford to pay it. Now, it is an admitted fact that local self-government means self-government from the bottom; we are going to get self-government from the top; that being so, what is local self-government? It means power of taxation. If this power of taxation is taken away from the villagers, it is no good giving them any power or consulting them, and it is no good talking of local self-government at all. Therefore, it is in the best interest of Government, it is consistent with the policy laid down by Government that the panchayets should be consulted, they should be the body to impose the tax and to increase the salary. The only thing that can be said is this, and that is why I do not support Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, that the panchayet will be always very unwilling to make any increase; therefore, the proposal may not come from the panchayet. In that view I do not support Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri "that the salaries of the chaukidars. . . . shall be determined by the panchayet subject to the approval of the District Magistrate." For the present I would think that the District Magistrate should be the proposer and take the consent of the panchayet. That seems to me the only proper course to take; therefore, I support Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji's proposal.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** I support the amendment moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. The Chaukidari Act is gradually coming to be restricted only to those areas where the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, is not being extended. It is desirable that the panchayets should be given some semblance of power or discretion in those places where the Act will continue to remain in force. In fact, the original Act gave them full power. The subsequent amendments which were made were all of a retrograde nature and took away gradually those powers from the panchayets and concentrated them in the hands of the District Magistrate who only registered the opinion of the *daroga* in these matters.

When the Act was last amended the District Magistrates were invariably the Chairmen of the District Boards and were in intimate relation with the village organisations, but the system is now changed and it no longer holds good with respect to almost all District Boards, where non-official chairmen, like Raja Manilall Singh Roy, are now working. In the fitness of things the Chairmen of the District Boards should have been the controlling and supervising authorities in these self-governing village organisations, but as we cannot have this desirable change as yet the opinions of the panchayets should in my opinion be allowed to prevail as much as possible.

The chaukidars are not whole-time men and need not be given the salaries of whole-time servants. I have found on inquiry that they

ordinarily employ themselves in their personal or other concerns and devote only a portion of their time to the work entrusted to them. Nobody would think of paying to the Territorials in peace time the salaries of soldiers in the barracks. The village panchayets are undoubtedly the best judges to find out what allowance—I will not call it salary—should be paid to a man of the village for the part-time he could afford to devote for the work of the village.

These are my reasons for which I think we shall be justified in giving our support to the amendment.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** I rise to support the amendment of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, and my reasons are that Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has really brought into prominence a question of principle which is involved in this. When the Act of 1870 was passed, in fact the principle was that the panchayet should be the final authority. When the Act was amended by Act I of 1892, just the opposite principle was accepted, viz., that the District Magistrate should be the final authority. The present question is as to who should be the final authority —whether the village panchayet or the District Magistrate. The Bill, as it has been drafted, still maintains the position that the District Magistrate would be the final authority, but he may consult the views and wishes of the panchayet if he so likes——

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** May I point out that it is not "*may* consult," but that he "*shall* consult"?

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** Assuming that he is bound to consult, he is not bound to give effect to the views and wishes of the panchayet. The whole question is which principle should be accepted. Reading the amendments one by one it appears to me that Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji is of opinion that we should add the words "with the consent." Now if we put in those words, what do we really get? We get this: the District Magistrate should fix the salary with the consent of the panchayet, but supposing there is a difference of opinion, who is the final authority? If this amendment is given effect to, the result would be that the Act would not provide for those cases in which there would be a difference of opinion between the District Magistrate and the panchayet. We must make some provision about this, and if the section be amended in this way, I think there would be difficulty in the interpretation of the section, especially when there is a difference of opinion between the District Magistrate and the village panchayet.

Shah Syed has gone rather to the opposite point. His amendment is that the District Magistrate must fix the salary in compliance with the wishes of the panchayet. To me it seems that he would give the final authority to the panchayet. The District Magistrate must be bound to comply with the findings of the panchayet; it may be the

majority, but by majority I mean the majority of the members of the panchayet, so that Shah Syed would rather make the panchayet the final authority, and his intention is that the District Magistrate would have absolutely no hand in the matter; he would have absolutely no discretion in the matter.

Then, the amendments of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to me, it seems, have tried to follow a *via media;* instead of providing, instead of making the authority of the panchayet final, and instead of making the District Magistrate altogether helpless in these matters in which there ought to be interference for some reason or other, I think Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has put it correctly when he says that the real authority must be the village panchayet because the village panchayet has got to find the money, has got to decide what salaries have got to be paid to the chaukidars, they know the services rendered by the chaukidars, they know the quantity and quality of their work, and, therefore, their suggestions should have the greatest value, and in almost all cases their wishes must be given effect to. But, if there be any special circumstances, in any particular case, then the District Magistrate may or may not interfere, so that Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta propose that the ultimate approval must come from the District Magistrate; in other words, as a matter of course, the salary would be fixed by the panchayet, but if there are any cases in which the Magistrate thinks that the panchayet has not acted properly, he may withhold his sanction, and until the wishes of the panchayet receive the final approval of the District Magistrate, they will not have the force of law. So my opinion is that the amendment, as proposed by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, would rather follow the middle course between two opposite principles, and I therefore support this amendment.

**Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED:** I also beg to support the amendments of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. During the last session I spoke on this subject, and I desired that the villagers who paid taxes for the chaukidar's pay, should be the masters of the chaukidars. The chaukidars should keep watch and ward for the village people from whom he receives his pay. Of course the District Magistrate ought to have a hand in the matter; as Magistrate of the District, he fixes the salary, but with the approval or with the consent of the village people and the panchayet. Now, in every union there would be constituted a union board who would also represent the views of the villagers, and I think that to work it harmoniously the District Magistrate should always consult the opinion of these villagers who form the members of the union board. Nowadays we find that the chaukidars are required to do the menial work of the sub-inspectors of the police, or are engaged in doing other work, neglecting their proper and legitimate duties of keeping watch and ward over the villagers.

Therefore, I beg to submit that in order to make the villagers work harmoniously in these panchayets under this Chaukidari Act it is the panchayet's duty and not the duty of the District Magistrate to see that the chaukidars do their work properly in the village, and the villagers if they find that the appointment of the chaukidars is in the hands of the villagers would see that the chaukidar did his work properly, and the chaukidar would do his work better. On the other hand, if the chaukidar is appointed by the District Magistrate without any consultation whatever and even against the consent of the villagers and the panchayet, I think the chaukidars will never think himself a servant of the public for whom he is employed, and that is the reason why I support this amendment.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I have to reply with regard to a considerable number of amendments. The first two may be taken together, because the grounds on which I cannot accept them are the same.

Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji proposes to make the salary of the chaukidar dependant on the consent of the panchayet. Shah Syed Emdadul Haq goes a little further and makes the Magistrates, as has been pointed out, the mouthpiece of the panchayet, with no initiative and no power of control or approval. It has already been pointed out that under the Act of 1871, the power of fixing the pay and the number of the chaukidars was vested in the panchayet, but that was found from experience not to work. Even so, even in the Act of 1871, their power was not unfettered. As regards the number of the chaukidars, they were limited by a provision which required that for so many houses there should be at least so many chaukidars; as regards the pay, their discretion was fettered by maximum and minimum limits which limits were fixed 52 years ago and, therefore, are not suitable now.

Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji advances an argument admittedly going further than the Village Self-Government Act goes; that was passed two years ago and in 1922 we have further advanced than we were in 1920. But he forgets that the Chaukidari Act only applies to those areas which were not sufficiently advanced even for the Act of 1919; therefore, it is wrong to bring forward the argument that because two years have elapsed we should therefore go further. In this particular matter we cannot even go so far as we did in the Village Self-Government Act two years ago. The effect of these two amendments will be to place the whole responsibility for the salary of the chaukidars upon the panchayet. The panchayet is not an elected body, it is an appointed body, therefore, the arguments based on the necessity of the people having a voice do not apply here. The panchayet is a body consisting of human beings and it is liable to the influences that most of us are liable to in the way of outside pressure. These amendments ask us to place upon the panchayet, which has not got the support which

is derived from being elected, and which is in an area which is not sufficiently advanced for the most primitive form of self-government—we are asked to place upon that panchayet a responsibility which we have not placed upon the elected members of the union boards. My main ground for opposing these amendments is that it is unfair to place that responsibility on panchayets, to make them undergo the unpopularity, which in their case will be visited on them personally, of raising the chaukidars' salary even when they think they ought to. I think the Council will agree that the utmost we should do is to place them in a similar position to the responsible members of the village unions, and that is what the Bill does. I think the House can rely upon it that no District Magistrate is going to disregard the reasonable views of the panchayets. There is no reason to think that he will wish to pay the chaukidar a salary in excess of that which the real mind of the village considers fair. We have had reports from all districts on chaukidari affairs since the last cold weather. One point I gather from them is the fact that the District Magistrate is alive to the necessity for carrying the village with him in the matter of chaukidars' salaries and in the matter of the number of chaukidars to be appointed. Some of the districts especially in Eastern Bengal do not want to raise the salary, those in northern and western Bengal have insisted on the necessity of increasing the salary of the chaukidars, if possible by decreasing the number. I think the House may be perfectly satisfied that the District Magistrate is not going to take the views of the village panchayet merely for the purpose of throwing them aside. He is bound to consult them and there must be many members of this House who have experience of village unions and no one has even suggested that the Magistrate does not pay reasonable deference to the views of the union board.

The next amendment of Shah Saheb is before the word "Panchayet" the words "majority of" be inserted. It is purely a formal amendment which, I think, is unnecessary for the reason that the expression "Panchayet" is used throughout the Act. The duties and responsibilities of the individual members of the panchayets are referred to but the panchayet is a corporate body and the wishes of the panchayet mean the corporate wishes of the panchayet or the wishes of the majority. Therefore, I do not think this formal amendment is necessary.

The next is also a formal amendment and it is not only unnecessary but I am afraid wrong. The chaukidari union is not mentioned in the Act at all. The Act speaks only of the village. Section 4 of the Act says that the District Magistrate may, from time to time, by an order in writing under his hand, declare any local area or group of dwellings, within the district of which he has charge, to be a village for the purposes of this Act. It is under that power that the District Magistrate has created what is known as chaukidari unions. The expression

" Chaukidari Union " is first mentioned in the " Chaukidari Manual." In the present Manual, such villages are referred to as " Unions " and nowhere in the Act do we find that expression. It is not an expression known to the law and the expression would be meaningless here unless we have a definition of it.

I now come to the amendments of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri which I entirely agree are much more reasonable, but I am afraid even these I cannot accept. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will excuse me if I decline to discuss the question of the stress and strain of a steel frame-work; but he states that he regards this amendment as representing a cardinal principle of the Reforms. I trust he does not mean a deadlock for that is what the proposed amendment would lead to. It says that the salary of a chaukidar shall be determined by the panchayet of the village subject to the approval of the District Magistrate. Now what would happen if the panchayet determines the salary of the chaukidar say, at Rs. 4 ? the District Magistrate says, " no, I cannot agree to Rs. 4." Then what happens? As has been pointed out by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur the chaukidars would get no salary at all until their salaries have been fixed by the panchayet and the District Magistrate has approved. From that point of view, this amendment is worse than the amendment of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji as it does not leave the initiative to the Magistrate. There is no solution of the deadlock. Even under the Village Self-Government Act, when the original appointment of the chaukidar is left to the nomination of the village unions, if the Magistrate does not approve of the nomination, and no suitable fresh nomination is made within a reasonable time, the Magistrate can appoint. But here, if the Magistrate does not approve of the salary of the chaukidar, there is no way out. That is the reason why we are unable to accept the proposal.

As regards the other speeches, I have got only a few remarks to make. Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur seemed to beg the whole question by trying to discuss what is the proper salary of a chaukidar. He is willing to leave the determination of the salary to the panchayet, but at the same time he wishes to bind the panchayet, to accept his view that the chaukidar should not be paid a full-time wage. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur objected to the power of taxation being taken away, but, Sir, I may point out that the power of taxation is not being taken away by this Act. The panchayet, unfortunately for himself, has still to assess the tax; the only power that these amendments wish to give to the panchayet, and the Bill does not give, is a power of fixing the salary of the chaukidars.

I can only say that, considering these amendments with the utmost care, Government are not able to accept any of them and I trust that the reasons which I have given to the Council will be found sufficient,

The amendment of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

**NOES.**

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinas Chandra.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 41 and the Noes 32, the motion was carried.

The amendment of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji and the three amendments of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were deemed to have failed.

**Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** I move that clause 3 be omitted. In moving this, I beg to submit that I have tried to examine the provisions of this Bill as dispassionately as I could and to place on them as favourable a construction as possible, yet I cannot resist the conclusion that, if this Bill is accepted, as amended by the majority of the Select Committee while the good that it may do is at best problematic, the injury that may result from it is both obvious and certain. We have appended a note of dissent to the Report of the Select Committee in which we have attempted to discuss at some length the nature and the probable effect of this clause. I have urged two principal objections. My first point is that the chaukidari tax is already highly

unpopular. The chaukidars are supposed to be maintained not for the ordinary duties of watch and ward to the villages, but mainly to help the district police in their work. Besides this, the chaukidars have many other duties to perform. For instance, they have to wait upon the District Magistrates, the Subdivisional Officers and even the Circle Officers when they are out on tour. When His Excellency the Viceroy is pleased to pass through a district in a special train, the chaukidars are summoned to guard the railway lines and the ratepayers' property are left practically unprotected during the chaukidars' absence as Vice-regal guards. The difficulty has already been experienced in realising union rates even in the areas where the Village Self-Government Act has been introduced—a legislation, which has got several redeeming features, such as, the provisions for the improvement of village sanitation and village education, whereas the Chaukidari Act has got no such provision in it to make it in any way popular to the ordinary ratepayers of the country. Therefore, I venture to submit that any proposal to increase this already highly unpopular tax will not be acceptable to the people of this country whether rich or poor. My second point is that though the maximum limit be raised to Re. 1-8-0, it will not be very helpful to increase the income of the unions by any substantial amount, because the number of people, who can be assessed the maximum amount, is very small. What is the average number of villages in a union? The list of all the village unions is not available. Take the list of at least three thanas in the Sadar Subdivision of Burdwan and this will give us an idea. There are 26 union boards, consisting of 444 villages so that the average number of villages in a union is about 17. What is the average number of chaukidars in a village? It is one to a village. If the chaukidar's pay is increased by Rs. 2 and that of the daffadar by Re. 1, each union must increase its income by at least Rs. 35 per month or Rs. 420 a year. Assuming for the sake of argument that there is such a man in each village who can be assessed at the maximum rate of Rs. 18 of which he already pays Rs. 12, the income that may be derived from this increase is only Rs. 102, leaving still a balance of Rs. 318 (420—102) to make up. This sum of Rs. 318 must be realised from the ordinary ratepayers. So, however, clever may be the argument in support of this provision, and however great may be the solicitude of the Government to give relief to the poor, the burden must fall on them. I venture to submit that any attempt on the part of the Government to increase this already highly unpopular tax will be strongly resented by the people of this country. The present temperament of the House, I am afraid, seems to be such that the Executive Government can get any measure they please, passed by the Legislature without the slightest difficulty; but there is a moral limit to the competency of the Government in this matter. They should come forward with any proposal of any amendment only when the existing law is found to be so defective as almost unworkable; otherwise not.

Such experienced members of the Indian Civil Service as Messrs. Birley and Cook consider this change as unnecessary and inexpedient. If there is any discontent among the chaukidars in some quarters it is due to the non-co-operation movement; it is sure to die out with the disappearance of its cause. When this temporary feeling vanishes peace and contentment will reign again among them.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** May I rise to a point of order, Sir? Is the hon'ble member in order in discussing the question of raising the salaries of chaukidars which has already been passed by the House? The hon'ble member is now speaking of a specific point.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You should not go into the question again as it has already been passed.

**Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** This provision for the raising of the maximum limit of assessment has got a direct connection with the question of salaries.

Now to turn to my point. If we agree to change the law to increase the pay, even in some places, it will be followed by a universal demand for higher remuneration by the chaukidars throughout the province. Pressing need for higher pay in some particular area may be met by a more careful and a more equitable assessment. I think there is absolutely no justification for changing the law for it.

The proposal for reducing the number of chaukidars cannot be entertained for a moment. I remember the Hon'ble Member mentioning it while moving to refer this Bill to the Select Committee in the last Session of the Council. The strength of the force is now much smaller than it was in the days of the *chakran* system. If we reduce their number still more to increase their pay, we shall be doing a double mischief, viz., increased taxation and no work in return; because their number cannot be reduced so much as to render additional taxation unnecessary. So I respectfully request the Council not to listen to any argument, not to agree to change the law and thereby put a halter round our own necks unconsciously, but to refuse to revise the existing Act on this point.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I beg to support the motion as moved by my friend, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy. I do not think there is any necessity for me to make a speech in support of this resolution after the able way in which the mover has dealt with the subject. The only question before the House is whether the tax is likely to be popular; of course taxation, as a rule, is unpopular, but of all the unpopular taxes this form of direct taxation on the poor people of the province is the most unpopular, and I am sure they will not tolerate it. It has been said that by amending section 12 we have, in a manner, consented to raise the pay of the chaukidars. I do not deny

that. Whenever and wherever it is necessary, if the panchayet think so, let them raise it, but I can assure the Council that either by the reduction of the number of chaukidars or by a more equitable system of taxation, this maximum of Re. 1 will be quite enough to provide for any increase in the pay of chaukidars that may be effected. The service of the chaukidars as protectors of properties in the villages has become a by-word of ridicule. The people do not appreciate their services, and I doubt if they will agree to this direct taxation being increased even by a single pice.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that clause 3 be omitted

He addressed the Council in Bengali in support of his motion. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

I do not want to take up the time of the Council. But I cannot understand why the chaukidari taxes should be Rs. 18 in place of Rs. 12. The rate for the union board is Rs. 84. The reason for this is the improvement of education, sanitation, public health, etc. What is the utility of the increased rate? In the mufassal, the panchayets are always busy in complying with the wishes of the zamindars. This mean carrying coals to Newcastle. The rich always try to get their taxes reduced. This they do by exercising their influence. Therefore the whole burden falls on the shoulders of the less affluent people. I have seen, Sir, that these taxes are usually realised by selling the movables of the poor. And what does the poor man do? He bears the burden calmly and does not dare to appeal to the District Magistrate. The arguments which the rich people advance in regard to the increased taxation, are, if I am allowed to say so, almost ridiculous. I have heard a gentleman saying that the taxes in his tahsils are calculated at the rate of Rs. 5 or 6 only. He says that that is the rule; that is the Government order. I can multiply instances like this. But it is no use doing so here. I should, therefore, ask, with all the emphasis I can command that this practice of reducing taxes should forthwith be put a stop to.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** The amendment proposed is a direct negation of the proposals contained in the Bill. When I supported the Bill as amended, I thought that with the panchayets having a right to determine the salaries of the chaukidars, the question for raising the rate would be unnecessary, because the panchayets consisted of the villagers themselves and would determine the rate of wages for the chaukidars. In that view of the matter, I think I cannot support the amendment which is a negative one, and I must support Government in this matter. The salaries of chaukidars must be increased some day or other. That being so, money must be raised. Now, by the amendment which has been carried by this House, powers have already been vested wholly in the panchayet, who represent the

dumb millions in the mufassal, to determine the salaries of the chaukidars. If that be so, there is no objection whatsoever. So I submit that as the first motion was carried by the House, the second one should not be allowed.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** I beg to oppose this amendment. During the introduction of the Bill I tried to explain to the House that this salutary provision was intended to make consideration for different circumstances obtaining in the villages At present there are people in the villages with wide difference in circumstances. One man may be able to pay four or five times the taxes paid by the ordinary tax-payers, but in the present Bill there is no provision for making him pay according to his means. Now what is the principle of taxation? The principle is that the persons who are best able to pay should bear the largest share of taxation; but under the present law the maximum is fixed at Rs. 12 a year, whereas the ordinary cultivator pays Rs. 6 or Rs. 9 a year. Therefore, this provision has been made in order to make the rich people pay the largest share, so that the burden of the poor may be lightened. Take a concrete case, as pointed out by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, it is the panchayet who will fix the salaries of the chaukidars, therefore, the amount to be raised from the village entirely depends upon the decision of the panchayet. The next point is how to raise the amount. On that point if we find that there are 4 or 5 rich men in a village who can pay the major portion of the tax, the balance—a trifling balance—can be distributed over a large number of poor ratepayers, which would lighten their burden. I am afraid this amendment has been moved under a misapprehension that it is the poor who will have to pay the largest share. It is true that in the panchayets, rich people exercise great influence; assuming that the poor people are more heavily taxed than the rich ones, there is that salutary provision in section 20 of the Act which acts as a check. Section 20 lays down that no appeal as of right shall lie from any order passed by a panchayet as regards the revision of any assessment; but the District Magistrate may call for the general list of assessment in any village and shall so call for such lists on the application of ten ratepayers in such village and may pass such orders on any lists so called for as he thinks proper. So if the panchayets take it into their head to distribute the larger share of the tax among the poor ratepayers than the rich, pressure might be brought to bear upon the District Magistrate on the application of ten villagers to have the list revised by him. In this way, the poor ratepayers can have their remedy and their burden lightened in respect of the payment of the chaukidari tax. I strongly oppose this amendment.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** I also oppose this amendment. My reasons are these. Section 15 appears to me to be an enabling section. It

does not lay down that the panchayets are, in all cases, to fix the maximum at Re. 1. There is a power vested in them of raising the maximum to Rs. 12, and the object of the present Bill is to increase the maximum to Rs. 18. Therefore, it is purely an enabling section—an enabling amendment. Now, it has been argued by the supporters of the amendment that if this amount is increased, it will tell upon the poorer people, but looking into the section more closely, I think that if this amendment be allowed, the result will be just the reverse. Shah Syed Emdadul Haq has said that in the village panchayets it is the rich people who often succeed in having the lowest amount of taxes assessed upon them on account of their influence. If that be so, I think the Shah Sahib was not justified in moving the amendment of clause 12 by which he purported to give entire powers to the panchayet itself. If the panchayet is so corrupt, then I do not think that he was justified in giving these powers to the panchayets at all. We have carried the amendment and the panchayet is now practically the sole authority after the section has been amended. Therefore, we have to rely on the panchayet in this matter. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said that if there is an increase in the salary of the chaukidars, it may be met somehow or other by making an adjustment, but how is that to be done? If the salary of the chaukidars is increased, the panchayet will have to find the money. The maximum has been fixed at Rs. 12, which will not affect the rich people who are few in the villages. Therefore, the maximum amount which can be raised by taxing the rich would remain the same, and the salaries would have to be paid by the poor people. So, if there be no power in the panchayet to tax the rich people up to the highest limit, the difference on account of the increase of the pay of the chaukidars must be paid by the poor; so that in order to meet this awkward situation more money is required, but the panchayet has not the power to realise the difference or at least a portion of the difference by imposing addifional tax on the richer classes because the maximum has been fixed at Rs. 12. Therefore, if we practically carry this amendment, which refuses to increase the rate of taxation from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18, the result will be that the rich people will not at all suffer, but that the difference would have to be met by the poor people. On the other hand, if this increase is allowed, it would mean that a substantial portion of it might come from the pockets of the rich people, so that the poor would not have to suffer much. I am therefore of opinion that if the amendment be carried, it would rather tell upon the poor people.

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the amendment moved by Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy. My reason for this is that people who have any knowledge of the mufassal know that rich people are not often taxed according to their means. The panchayets often impose the lesser share upon the rich people and

make up the difference by larger impositions on the poor. Of all the taxes that have hitherto been imposed, to my mind, the chaukidari tax is the most unpopular. Just now we have passed a resolution to the effect that the salaries of the chaukidars shall be determined only by the panchayets; and if this clause is passed into law, the resolution already passed becomes null and void. The panchayets are in a position to impose the maximum amount of all taxes upon the rich people, which is not often done in the mufassal, and thereby increase the salaries of the chaukidars, if it is at all necessary. To my mind when the union boards are established throughout the Province, whole-time chaukidars might be employed, and it is then and then only that their salaries should be increased. Otherwise, in view of the conditions prevailing at present in the mufassal, there is no reason why the chaukidars' salaries should be increased.

With these words, I support the motion.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I am against direct taxation and also against the imposition of additional taxation. I am of opinion that as the Government is responsible for the protection of the life and property of the people, it is the Government who ought to pay the additional taxes. But in this particular case, I am sorry I do not agree with the mover of the amendment. We have just resolved to increase the maximum pay of the chaukidars which was Rs. 6. Owing to the high price of food-grains and other necessaries of life, it has become absolutely necessary that the pay of the chaukidars should be materially increased. That being the case, the only course left to us is to increase the maximum rate which can be levied upon the villagers. It appears from the Bill that Rs. 2 was intended to be the maximum rate, but the Select Committee have reduced it to Re. 1-8-0 per month, and I am of opinion that it appears to be very reasonable. I therefore oppose the amendment.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I oppose the amendment. I have listened to the speeches of the several speakers, but I cannot persuade myself to believe how consistent our conduct will be to omit the section after we have carried the former amendment. The object of the Bill is, as far as I understand, to increase the pay of the chaukidar. On economic grounds they are entitled to ask the House to have their salaries increased. If so, is it reasonable for the members of the Council to argue that their pay should not be more than what was fixed previously? If you want the services of the chaukidars as the defenders of your life and property in the villages, you ought certainly to come forward and see that their pay is increased. You ought not to put them in the same condition as they were in before. When the Bill was introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson some time ago in this Council, I brought to his notice what was the opinion of some of the Lieutenant-Governors with regard to the chaukidars. They were viewed

as mere beasts of burden. Now their status should be put on a proper level and on a proper basis; therefore, my humble view is that this amendment—if it can be called an amendment for the omission of this section— is not consistent with the provisions of the Bill. I think the provisions of the Chaukidari Act and the Village Local Self-Government Act ought to be in harmony. When the latter Act was passed, the same question was put before the old Council, but to my regret it was then thought necessary that the District Magistrate should have the supreme voice in the matter. But whether it may have been the condition 50 years ago or even before that when the regulations were in force, the position of the chaukidars was not thought to be on a high level and attempts were made—if the hon'ble members will refer to the history of the subject they will be satisfied that there was such a desire on the part of the authorities—to increase the pay of the chaukidars.

As regards the pay, the previous proposal in the Bill was Rs. 2 per month. The Select Committee has fixed it now at Re. 1-8-0. Let us be satisfied with the views of the Select Committee and since you have given the panchayets a free voice in the matter of determining the salaries of the chaukidars, is it reasonable, is it just and proper for this House to say that the whole thing should be omitted and the Chaukidari Bill be put to a crash? I am very sorry therefore to say that I cannot support such a proposal.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The speeches which have already been made on this amendment leave me very little to say. The mover's speech was full of special pleading. "Chaukidars are useless but we cannot reduce their number; chaukidars do no work but if we reduce the number of chaukidars in an area they will be overworked. The pay of the chaukidars is sufficient and a rearrangement of the assessment will give us enough to raise their pay. The Chaukidari Act is unpopular because it is not in the Village Self-Government Act" and so forth, but the gist of the whole speech comes to this: "Do not ruin the poor wealthy man who now pays Rs. 12 a year by making him pay Rs. 18." I would not lay stress on the argument that because the Council has raised the power of the panchayets to increase the pay of the chaukidars, it is at least fair to give the panchayets the means of raising the chaukidars' pay, because I regard the raising of this maximum as a desirable thing in itself quite apart from the question of increasing the chaukidars' pay. The crux of the whole thing is the equity of the assessment. There is a very general complaint that assessments are not always equitable. The remedy is to my mind an increase in the number of Circle Officers to look after these assessments, but, as I have explained, we have not enough Circle Officers to go round the whole province. To my mind, the great advantage of raising the maximum of taxation is that in itself it helps to correct the inequity. *A* is the richest man in the village and pays Rs. 12. *B* is a good deal less rich than

*A*. Obviously he cannot pay Rs. 12, he must pay Rs. 6. *C* is less rich than *B*. Therefore, he must pay Rs. 4 and so on until you come down to the people who pay from annas 6 to annas 12 and the people who ought to pay on a proper standard Rs. 6 or 7 in a year are assessed now on a comparison of their wealth with *A*'s at annas 12. The result of that is to include in the lowest class a very large number who ought to be exempted altogether and who could be exempted if only for the purpose of taxation we had not started with a comparison of the other assessee's wealth with *A*'s. If you raise the assessable maximum from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18, *A* pays Rs. 18, *B* pays Rs. 12 or 13 and you scale up the whole way down with the result that the really poor are exempted as they ought to be. I regard the raising of the maximum of taxation not merely as a means for providing the extra cost of raising the salaries of chaukidars but as a most valuable aid towards the equity of the assessment. And for that reason I trust the House will reject this amendment.

As regards the amendment of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, I am unable to see that it has any principle at all at the back of it. It is to move that in clause 3, for the words "one rupee eight annas" the words "one rupee four annas" be substituted, if motion No. 18 be not carried: that is to say, "for Heaven's sake let us save something from the ruin." I do not think that I need take up the time of the Council in discussing that amendment.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Cupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Faziul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Makramali, Munshi.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.

**NOES.**

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Coode, Mr. S. W.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-

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| Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra. | Swan, Mr. J. A. L. |
| Roy, Mr. J. N. | Walsh, Mr. C. P. |
| Spry, Mr. H. E. | Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. |
| Stephenson, Mr. H. L. | Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. |

The Ayes being 24 and the Noes 36, the motion was lost.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that in clause 3 for the word "one rupee eight annas" the words "one rupee four annas" be substituted.

The motion was put and lost.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** In view of the amendmen that has been carried, I do not propose to move any further motions in regard to the Bill to-day.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 24th August, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council, met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 24th August, 1922 at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 95 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Overbridge at Poradah.

***XXIV. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware of the faulty construction of the staircase leading to the overbridge at Poradah junction?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the railway authorities to connect the staircase with the platform as in the case of the other three platforms?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) No.

(*b*) The attention of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway will be drawn to the subject-matter of the question.

### Inspection of the office of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle.

***XXV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether, and, if so, how many times the Director of Agriculture inspected the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle, during the last two years?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** The Director of Agriculture has not inspected the

office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture of any Circle during the last two years. Such inspections have not hitherto been considered necessary.

### Superintendent of Sericulture.

***XXVI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Sub-Deputy Collector has been appointed as the Sericulture Superintendent of Bengal?

(*b*) What were his special claims to such an appointment?

(*c*) Has he got any scientific training?

(*d*) Is it a fact that there are several scientific men trained in Japan and France with 10 or 15 years' experience in the department?

(*e*) Why was a Sub-Deputy Collector preferred to such candidates?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the reply to the unstarred question No. 43 (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) asked by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd July, 1922.

(*d*) Except the Deputy Director of Sericulture there is no officer in the Agricultural Department who has received a sericultural training in Japan or France.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

### Authority controlling payment of fees to pleaders in mufassal.

***XXVII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether he exercises any control over the monies spent as lawyers' fees in the mufassal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the name of the controlling authority?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) and (*b*) Under the Civil Suits Rules and the Rules for the Prosecution of Criminal Cases, the Superintendents and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, Bengal, is the officer who exercises control on behalf of the Government in the matter of payment of fees to pleaders in the mufassal. The Member in charge of the Judicial Department is entiled to give suitable directions in any particular matter he thinks necessary.

**Wages of agricultural labourers.**

***XXVIII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether he is aware that the wages of local agricultural labourers have risen very high which has affected their employees especially the poor cultivators?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of recruiting labour from the Santhal Parganas or other places and thus giving some facilities to the recruiters as is done in the case of recruiting for tea-gardens?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Government are aware that the wages of agricultural labourers have risen during the last few years.

(*b*) No.

**Price-lists of commercial products.**

***XXIX. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what steps have been taken to ensure correctness in the preparation of price-lists of commercial products published fortnightly in the *Calcutta Gazette* since the answer to my starred question No. IV, on the 4th July, 1921, in which it was said that the question of improvement was under the consideration of the Government?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Government have since issued a revised set of rules for the preparation of the fortnightly wholesale and retail prices current return. A copy of the revised rules is laid on the Library table.

**Facilities to Moslem students for study in Calcutta Technical School.**

***XXX. Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any definite steps have been taken, or are in contemplation, to safeguard the interests of Moslem students in the matter of admission and hostel accommodation and also to assist thereby the awarding of free tuition and scholarships in the newly established Technical Institute in Calcutta?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** It is presumed that the question refers to the Calcutta

Technical School. As the construction of the school has not been begun and it is uncertain when money will be available, the matters referred to in the question have not yet been considered.

### Leaky roofs of Eastern Bengal Railway carriages and of inland steamers.

***XXXI. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that roofs of many of the intermediate and third class carriages of the Eastern Bengal Railway, as well as those of the inland passenger steamers leak so much in this rainy season that the passengers have to open their umbrellas for protection from rain?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the Railway authorities and of the Joint Steamer Companies to this state of affairs?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Government have no information on the subject.

(*b*) The attention of the Railway authorities and of the Joint Steamer Companies will be drawn to the subject-matter of the question.

### Bengal and Calcutta Police.

***XXXII. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is open to any officers of the Bengal Police to be transferred to the Calcutta Police and *vice versâ*?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the officers with their ranks who have been so transferred during the last five years?

(*c*) What is the percentage of the Anglo-Indian Assistant Commissioners in the Calcutta Police and what is their salary and status as compared with those of the Indian Assistant Commissioners?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) It is understood that the question refers to officers of the Provincial and Subordinate Police services. Such transfers are exceptional, but there is no bar to them if the circumstances of the case and the public interest make them desirable.

(*b*) No transfers have been made within the last five years.

(*c*) Fifty-five per cent. of assistant commissioners are at present Anglo-Indians. They have the same scale of salary and status as Indian assistant commissioners.

### Organisation of village people into Consumers' Associations.

*XXXIII. **Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking steps to help the village people to organise themselves into "Consumers' Associations" with a view to enabling them to procure daily articles of necessity at a cheap rate?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Three Consumers' Associations have been started as an experimental measure for the benefit of village people. If the experiment succeeds, steps will be taken by the Co-operative Department to spread this form of co-operation.

## Unstarred Questions

## (answers to which were laid on the table).

### Inspectors of Factories.

**114. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given by the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce to the motion for the refusal of the demand for an assistant Indian Inspector of Factories made in connection with the Supplementary Budget in July, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state how many additional Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Factories have been appointed by the Government of Bombay since the passing of the Indian Factories (Amendment) Act of 1922?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state under what head in the Bombay budget for 1922-23, provision for such additional Inspectors has been made?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) and (*b*) It appears from page 252 of the Bombay Civil Budget estimates for 1922-23 that provision has been made under Detailed Account No. 37A.—Miscellaneous Departments—Amalgamated Factory, Boiler and Smoke Nuisances Department—for one Chief inspector and nine inspectors. The Bengal Government have no information as to the number of inspectors who have been appointed in Bombay since the passing of the Indian Factories (Amendment) Act of 1922.

**Jute forecast.**

**115. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any attempt is made to bring the information of the jute forecast inquiry to the knowledge of the producers of jute?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the methods adopted to bring the information to the knowledge of the cultivators simultaneously with the reading of the forecasts from the steps of the Town Hall to the jute dealers?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of adopting means to disseminate this information, simultaneously with the announcement from the steps of the Town Hall, Calcutta, for the benefit of the cultivators from every police-station, every village union, and Panchayeti headquarters as well as from all the important market places?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) and (*b*) No special attempt is made to bring the results of the jute forecast inquiry to the knowledge of the cultivators. Figures for the districts are, however, published in the respective district headquarters. They are also published in the newspapers.

(*c*) Government are not aware of any demand on the part of the cultivators for the information.

**Travelling and halting charges of certain officers of Pabna.**

**116. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement of—(*a*) travelling, (*b*) halting, (*c*) horse, (*d*) house, (*e*) exchange compensation, and (*f*) overseas allowances drawn by the following officers of the Pabna district and their names when not mentioned since their posting to the district, month by month till 31st July, 1922, and the works performed by them for these travelling and halting allowances:—

(1) Rai R. M. Das Bahadur, District Megistrate,

(2) the Hon'ble S. K. Sinha, I.C.S., Subdivisional Officer, Sirajganj,

(3) Mr. T. K. Ghose Chaudhuri, Superintendent of Police,

(4) the Deputy Superintendents of Police of Pabna and Sirajganj and the Circle Inspector of the Police in the district,

(5) Babu Chunilal Mukharji, Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Pabna,

(6) the Deputy Magistrate posted at Pabna Sadar,

(7) the Deputy Magistrate posted at Sirajganj,

(8) the District and Additional Sessions Judges, Pabna and Bogra,

(9) the Settlement Officer, the Assistant Settlement Officer and the Charge Officers and the Revenue Officers of the Pabna-Bogra Settlement,

(10) the Superintendent, the Inspector and the Sub-Inspectors of Excise,

(11) the Deputy and the Sub-Inspectors of Schools,

(12) the Civil Surgeon,

(13) the Sub-Deputy Magistrates and Collectors,

(14) the District Sub-Registrar,

(15) the Kanungoes in the Settlement and general departments, respectively, and

(16) the Jailor and the Assistant Jailor?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** The information is not readily available and Government are not prepared to undertake its collection as it would involve an amount of trouble and labour wholly incommensurate with any object to be achieved.

**Waiting rooms at stations on the Assam-Bengal Railway.**

**117. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that there are waiting rooms specially reserved for Europeans at the Akhaura, Laksam and Chandpur stations of the Assam-Bengal Railway; and

(*ii*) whether it is also a fact that there is no covered waiting rooms at these stations for Indian ladies?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*i*) No. Indians who conform to European habits are entitled to use the 1st and 2nd class waiting rooms labelled "European style" at Chandpur and Laksam Railway stations. There is also a separate 1st and 2nd class waiting room at Laksam labelled "Indian style." At Akhaura there is a general waiting room which is in a temporary building.

(*ii*) At Chandpur, there is covered accommodation for 1st and 2nd class Indian ladies; at Laksam, there is a 1st and 2nd class waiting room for ladies marked "European style," and at Akhaura, there is a waiting room provided for ladies in a temporary building.

The permanent station buildings at Akhaura have not been reconstructed since they were destroyed by earthquake in 1918.

**Mechuabazar incidents Inquiry Committee.**

**118. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any steps have been taken to form a committee of inquiry into the incidents at Mechuabazar for which a resolution was passed on the 21st February last; and

(*ii*) if the answer to (*i*) is in the affirmative, what was the result of the inquiry?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** The member is referred to the note to section 78 (Rule 24) of the Bengal Legislative Rules and Standing Orders and to the list kept in the lobby in accordance therewith for the information of members.

**Presidency Jail outbreak.**

**119. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Muhammadan prisoner was interfered with by a jail warder at the Alipore Jail during his *namaz*?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken against the said warder?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) and (*b*) The members is referred to paragraphs 2 and 9 of Government Resolution on the report on the inquiry regarding the mutiny at the Presidency Jail published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th August, 1922. The interference did not, it has been found, take place during the prisoner's *namaz*. What steps should be taken against the head warder are under consideration.

**Pabna weaving industry.**

**120. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that there is an extensive weaving industry in many of the villages of Sadar subdivision in the district of Pabna?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to encourage the industry?

(*c*) If no steps have been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In order to encourage the weaving industry, a Government Weaving School was established at Pabna in 1915, and subsequently, in 1918, a peripatetic weaving school was also established to conduct demonstrations in the district. The passed students from these schools are granted loans for the purchase of improved weaving machinery.

Some co-operative weaving societies have been formed and the question of the establishment of an Industrial Co-operative Union at Pabna for the supply of yarn at wholesale rates and the disposal of the finished products is now under consideration.

(*c*) and (*d*) These questions do not arise.

## Transfer of Circle Officers.

**121. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of adopting the same principle in the matter of transferring a Circle Officer from one station to another every three years as is done in the case of Collectors and Subdivisional Officers?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** There is no such principle in the case of Collectors and Subdivisional Officers; nor is Government prepared to lay down a fixed and definite rule in the case of Circle Officers.

## Railway Advisory Councils.

**122. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to paragraphs 140, 141, 142 and 143 of the Report of the Indian Railways Committee of 1920-21 presided over by Sir William Ackworth in which the constitution of the Central and Local Railway Advisory Councils has been recommended?

(*b*) Have the local Government been consulted by the Government of India in the Railway Board about the recommendations made in the said proposals, particularly in regard to the representation of the provincial Legislative Council on such advisory bodies and liaison between the provincial Government and the Railway authorities?

(*c*) If so, what opinion has been given on these questions?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the establishment of the Boards of Communications in the Punjab and the United Provinces?

(*e*) If so, what is the constitution and what are the functions of the said bodies.

(*f*) Has the establishment of such a Board been under the contemplation of this Government?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government of Bengal were not consulted with regard to the establishment and constitution of the Central Advisory Council, but were consulted with regard to the establishment and constitution of Local Advisory Council. The provincial proposals included representatives of the Bengal Legislative Council and of the local Government.

(*c*) The Government of Bengal agreed with the provisional proposals.

(*d*) Yes, in the United Provinces but not in the Punjab.

(*e*) A copy of the United Provinces Government Industries Department Resolution No. 1002-XVIII-89 of 22nd May, 1919, and of United Provinces Government letter No. 1785/XVIII of 26th August, 1920, are laid on the table.

(*f*) Yes; a proposal was cursorily examined in 1919 when it was decided not to proceed with it.

### Statement of rainfall.

**123. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINCH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement giving the average rainfall for the last ten years in every district of Bengal?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** The member is referred to the statements of monthly and annual rainfall in each district of Bengal which are published every year in the supplement to one of the March issues of the *Calcutta Gazette*.

### "Raiyatwari" settlements in Sunderbans.

**124. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state what rate of rent has come to be fixed generally—

(*i*) in the area covered by *raiyatwari* settlement in the Bakargani Sunderbans; and

(*ii*) in the Sunderban lands settled by way of *raiyatwari* settlement in the district of the 24-Parganas?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*i*) The member is referred to rule 31 of the rules published

with notification No. 861 T.R., dated the 29th May, 1916, on pages 974—979, Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 31st idem (copy placed on the Library table).

(*ii*) The rules for the *raiyatwari* settlement of the Sunderbans tracts in the district of the 24-Parganas, published with notification No. 1601 L.R., dated the 15th February, 1919, on pages 306—311, Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th idem, do not specify any rates of assessment, which will have to be decided after consideration of the economic circumstances. As, however, the usual rent-free period of three years has only just passed, there has not been any settlement yet on payment of rent.

### Sittings of Standing Committee on Local Self-Government.

**125. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** The Standing Committee attached to the Local Self-Government Department met on eight occasions during 1921-22. A joint meeting of the Local Self-Government and Medical and Public Health Standing Committees was also held during the year. Under the rules their functions are advisory and their proceedings confidential.

### Sittings of Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health.

**126. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of sittings of the Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health during the last official year and how many of their recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** The Standing Committee attached to the Medical and Public Health Departments met on nine occasions during 1921-22. Under the rules its functions are advisory and its proceedings confidential.

### Ministerial Officers of the Settlement Department.

**127. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to clause (*b*) of unstarred question No. 117 put by me on the 29th August, 1921, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the

### Subordinate Educational Service.

**129. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether any orders were received from the Secretary of State sanctioning the abolition of the majority of appointments in the old Subordinate Educational Service?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the number and date of the orders?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter):** (*a*) The question is not understood. Under the present constitution no orders of the Secretary of State are necessary for the abolition of any number of posts in the Subordinate Educational Service. The present case, however, is substantially one of reorganisation, not of abolition.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

### Financial control over Calcutta and Dacca Universities.

**130. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what financial control, if any, can this Council or the Government legally exercise over the Calcutta and Dacca Universities, respectively?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** The statutory powers of Government are embodied in Section XV of Act II of 1857 and in Section 37 (*1*) of the Dacca University Act (Act XVIII of 1920). Apart from statutory powers, whenever Government makes any grant to either of these universities and the latter accept the same, it can legally impose any reasonable conditions for financial control.

As regards the Council, it has the right to vote or reject a grant to the university annually.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to explain what he means by "reasonable conditions for financial control" in his reply to question No. 130?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I think the words are quite clear. When any specific question arises then he may ask this question.

### Collector of Tippera.

**131. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state

whether the present Collector of Tippera attends office regularly every day?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when he usually comes and how long he remains in office?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing—

(*i*) the usual hour of attendance of all officers in charge of districts other than Tippera; and

(*ii*) the period of their stay in office?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The prescribed working hours are 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., but part of a District Officer's work is done elsewhere than in his Court office. Government have no reason to suppose that the present Collector of Tippera is not attentive to his duties and do not propose to make inquiries on the lines of this question.

### Bengal Tenancy Act, Amendment Committee.

**132. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state how many sittings of the Committee for the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act have taken place since the date of its appointment?

(*b*) Is there any member on it who represents the Chittagong Division?

(*c*) If the answer to clause (*b*) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the name of the member and the principle on which the selection was based?

(*d*) Have the results of the discussions of that committee been printed?

(*e*) If so, will he be pleased to lay a printed copy of them on the Library table?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Forty-three.

(*b*) and (*c*) There is no non-official representative of the Chittagong Division on the Committee, but Mr. W. H. Thompson was Settlement Officer of Tippera and Noakhali from 1914 to 1919 and hence has knowledge of that Division.

(*d*) and (*e*) The report of the Committee has not yet been received.

**Alleged delay in the disposal of settlement suits in Tippera district.**

**133. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of suits arising out of different sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which were pending in the Tippera Settlement office after the last Puja vacation;

(*ii*) the number of suits instituted after that time, naming their sections;

(*iii*) the number of suits which had been remanded to Tippera Settlement Court from the appeal court, naming their sections;

(*iv*) the number of suits which have been finally decided and those which are pending yet among the suits referred to in (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) and when the remaining suits may be hoped to be disposed of;

(*v*) whether it is a fact that no date had been fixed for a long time even after the remand of some suits from the appeal court;

(*vi*) the number of suits of section 108 which have been remanded from the appeal court and the number of suits among them which have not been finally decided and are pending yet; and

(*vii*) whether it is not a fact that suits under section 108 are decided according to the records. If so, what is the reason of delaying to decide the suits of this nature?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*i*) to (*vii*) The information wanted will have to be collected from the records of cases. Government do not consider that the result would be commensurate with the time and labour involved in collecting the information.

**Facilities to Moslem prisoners for prayers.**

**134. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether any facilities are given to the Muhammadan prisoners of the Bengal Presidency for the offering of the five daily *namazes* and the *Jumma* and *Id Namazes*?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state in detail what these facilities are?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The matter is under consideration by a Committee; meanwhile facilities are being given.

(*b*) Prisoners are supplied with water in sufficient quantity for ablution at each prayer time and permitted to use their blankets or bed sheets as prayer mats. They are allowed to say Friday prayers collectively and a reasonable time is allowed for the purpose.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge be pleased to explain what he means by "reasonable time" for the offering of Friday prayers collectively?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Reasonable time means reasonable time.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Does it mean five minutes?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I think the member is asking for an expression of opinion.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge aware of the fact that the use of blankets and bed-sheets as prayer mats is abominable if not absolutely forbidden under the Muhammadan law?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** No, I am not aware of it.

### Number of suits in each district.

**135. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of suits in each district in the months of April and May of the year 1921 and those of the current year?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 135, showing the number of civil suits in each district in the month of April and May of the years 1921 and 1922.*

| District. | 1921. | | 1922. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April. | May. | April. | May. |
| Bakarganj ... ... | 9,211 | 10,413 | 9,668 | 11,347 |
| Bankura ... ... | 5,981 | 648 | 4,671 | 610 |
| Birbhum ... ... | 8,086 | 663 | 6,174 | 1,104 |
| Burdwan ... ... | 9,219 | 2,018 | 7,014 | 2,175 |

| District. | 1921. | | 1922. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April. | May. | April. | May. |
| Chittagong ... ... | 9,255 | 3,024 | 7,501 | 4,197 |
| Dacca ... ... | 17,294 | 1,827 | 15,038 | 1,648 |
| Dinajpur ... ... | 16,841 | 1,831 | 9,441 | 6,724 |
| Faridpur ... .. | 19,630 | 1,747 | 14,035 | 5,986 |
| Hooghly ... ... | 9,130 | 2,703 | 5,910 | 3,813 |
| Jessore ... ... | 18,493 | 2,614 | 14,710 | 1,798 |
| Khulna ... ... | 11,648 | 1,984 | 8,459 | 2,339 |
| Midnapore ... ... | 6,334 | 1,833 | 4,294 | 1,791 |
| Murshidabad ... ... | 10,622 | 933 | 8,579 | 679 |
| Mymensingh ... ... | 30,296 | 2,236 | 30,873 | 3,040 |
| Nadia ... ... | 14,302 | 1,641 | 10,710 | 3,797 |
| Noakhali ... ... | 12,283 | 1,191 | 7,435 | 3,248 |
| Pabna and Bogra ... | 10,673 | 879 | 9,069 | 898 |
| Rajshahi ... ... | 8,285 | 3,258 | 8,803 | 1,623 |
| Rangpur ... ... | 20,148 | 3,592 | 16,061 | 3,515 |
| Tippera ... ... | 17,616 | 1,345 | 16,474 | 1,544 |
| 24-Parganas ... ... | 21,897 | 2,353 | 16,854 | 1,915 |

## Additional Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates.

**136. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name of the districts in which there are Additional Magistrates now; and the total number of the Additional Magistrates during last year; and

(*ii*) the number of Deputy Magistrates in Bengal who have been given the power to try appeal cases?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The districts in which there are Additional Magistrates now are: 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Dacca, Bakarganj, Mymensingh and Chittagong.

The maximum number of Additional Magistrates at any one time during the last year was 7—one for each of the six districts named above and one for Tippera.

(*ii*) There were on 1st July, 1922, 19 Deputy Magistrates who had powers under setcion 407 (*2*), Criminal Procedure Code (power to hear appeals).

## Dacoities in Brahmanbaria.

**137. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of dacoities alleged to have been committed in the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the district of Tippera from January to June, 1922; and

(*ii*) the number of persons alleged to have committed dacoities arrested?

(*b*) Had there been any trial of persons alleged to have committed dacoities up to date?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there was a regular fight between the Police and inmates of the house when dacoity was committed in the house of Pyari Mohan Poddar of Majlishpur?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a man was arrested with wounds next day after the dacoity?

(*e*) Has he been put on trial? If not, why?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table, a copy of the first information report in connection with the Majlishpur dacoity?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Twenty-three.

(*ii*) Eighty-one.

(*b*) Yes. Three persons have been placed on trial for dacoity and 105 persons are being proceeded against for bad livelihood under section 110, Code of Criminal Procedure, of whom 78 have so far been arrested; 48 of them have been ordered to give security.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) He could not be placed on trial on a charge of dacoity for want of sufficient evidence against him in the case. He was, however, proceeded against immediately for bad livelihood and has been ordered to give security for three years.

(*f*) A copy of the English translation of the first information report is laid on the Library table.

**Ministerial officers of certain offices of the Education Department.**

**138. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that ministerial officers attached to the offices and institutions subordinate to the Director of Public Instruction, have been excluded from the list of the officers of the Education Department, whose pay has been recently revised?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state why this particular class of ministerial officers has been so excluded?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that the pay of these ministerial officers ranges from Rs. 15 with an *ad interim* allowance of Rs. 4-8-0?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to revise the pay of these ministerial officers? If so, when?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Educational Service reorganisation has been taken in sections, teachers and inspecting officers being dealt with first as being the more important and the more numerous class. Their cases were also the more urgent as the ministerial officers had been granted *ad interim* allowances.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes. Their cases are under consideration and it is expected that orders will issue at an early date.

**Recruitment of Deputy Collectors from Subordinate Civil Service.**

**139. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Deputy Collectors to be recruited by promotion from the Subordinate Civil Service this year;

(*ii*) whether these appointments will be made as usual in December;

(*iii*) whether the rules for recruitment of Deputy Collectors from among Sub-Deputy Collectors have been modified in accordance with the introduction of the competitive examination for recruitment;

(*iv*) if so, in what respects;

(*v*) whether the Sub-Deputy Collectors will be permitted to sit for the competitive examination for the Bengal Civil Service; and

(*vi*) if so, under what conditions?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*i*) Four.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The introduction of competitive examination for direct recruitment does not necessitate any change in the procedure for recruitment by promotion.

(*iv*) Does not arise.

(*v*) and (*vi*) Such Sub-Deputy Collectors as were recruited under the old system and are in all respects eligible for the competitive examination and desire to appear in it, will be permitted to do so.

## Non-official Business.

### Amendment of Standing Order 24(2).

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that in sub-clause (*2*) of the Standing Order 24, for the word " fifteen," the word " ten," shall be substituted.

He delivered his speech in Bengali in support of his motion. A translation of which is as follows:—

It is my intention to amend Standing Order 24. I wish to curtail the time-limits from 15 to 10 minutes. This is extremely necessary. In order to remove any misapprehension which the members might cherish, I beg to submit that under Standing Order 34, the time-limit allowed to us is specially stated there. It is necessary under that Standing Order that the time-limit of 15 and 30 minutes, as allowed there, should stand, and I do not like to curtail the time-limit therein allowed. As regards Standing Order 24, I should strongly emphasise the necessity of reducing the time-limit especially when any special matter demanding special discussion is, brought forward before the House, otherwise many members, who want to have their say on a matter of urgent public importance, are debarred from this privilege on account of the shortness of time.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** The motion before the Council is as follows:—That in sub-clause (2) of the Standing Order 24, for the word " fifteen " the word " ten " shall be substituted. Has any member any objection to leave being given? (After a pause.) As no objection has been taken, the matter stands referred to a Select Committee in accordance with section 100 (Standing Order 61).

## Resolutions

### (under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** We now resume the discussion on resolution No. 1 which was moved by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed at a previous session of the Council, and the discussion of which had not concluded.

The resolution was as follows:—

**Improvement of water-supply.**

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee, consisting of three elected representatives of this Council and two expert Engineers and three representatives of the district boards of Bengal and the mover, be formed at once to devise ways and means for the provision of an extensive system of water-supply in the Province, and to suggest other necessary improvements for the increased supply of pure drinking water and water for cultivation purposes in the mufassal."

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved, by way of amendment, that for the words " three representatives of district boards " the following words be substituted, namely,—

" One representative of district boards, one representative of local boards, and one representative of union boards."

The Shah Saheb spoke in Bengali in support of his motion. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

Water is essential for human subsistence, but Bengal is turned into a desert owing to its scarcity. Let alone pure water, people cannot get even foul water in the two sultry months of April and May. No remedial measures are adopted for the removal of this dire necessity. We entertained hope that steps would be taken to remove this long-felt want by the union boards by raising a loan from the district boards. Nothing has been done in this direction. Originally the postal charges were met by the Government: now the union boards have to meet these charges, and the union boards raise money on loan from the district boards. The mover and three other speakers wish to take in representatives from the district boards. I for one should think that there should be one representative each from the district, local and union boards, respectively. Sir, formerly a member of the Legislative Council was elected by the members of the district boards. At present the member is elected by the direct votes of the local board members also. I admit that the district board representative is a much more enlightened and educated member than the local board member, but the representative of the village union board is certainly fully cognisant of all village matters. Every one is an expert in his own way. I hope, therefore, that neither the mover nor any member of this House would be opposed to the idea of a representative from each of the district, local and union boards respectively.

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI** being absent, the following analogous resolution standing in his name was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken forthwith to make a survey of the drinking-water sources of the province

and to make a ten years' programme within which to remove the drinking water scarcity in the country."

**Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that active steps be taken to remove the water scarcity in Bengal by providing funds for sinking at least 20 tube-wells in each district during the next 12 months.

The resolution needs no speech to commend itself to the good sense of the House. The recent drought with which we have been visited leaves no doubt whatsoever in the mind of any person that there is urgent need to organise the drinking water system in Bengal. Pestilence has assailed Bengal from one end of the country to the other, for districts which within our experience had not hitherto run dry have run dry: and districts have been attacked with cholera for the cultivators have had to content themselves with dirty, stinking water. My reason for asking for sinking only 20 tube-wells in each district during the next 12 months is due to the fear which all of us possess of the grandiose eloquence of the Hon'ble Minister. I understand that at the rate of Rs. 800 per tube-well the cost will be about Rs. 4 lakhs. Our Hon'ble Minister has too often satisfied us with expressions of sympathy and has wound up the debates by telling us that if we supplied him with funds he would grant us all that we required for the purpose of sanitation and health. I wish to tell the Hon'ble Minister that we consider the sinking of tube-wells of paramount importance and that it will not avail him and the Government to tell us at this stage that although he is in sympathy with our desire he cannot entertain the proposal because he has no funds at his disposal. I accept the amendment of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq that for the words and figures "20 tube-wells in each district" the words and figures "500 tube-wells in Bengal distributing them in the several districts according to their area and requirements," be substituted. I leave it to the discretion of the Government to find out at which places these tube-wells can be sunk so that they may yield the best results.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved, by way of amendment, that for the words and figures "20 tube-wells in each district" the words and figures "500 tube-wells in Bengal distributing them in the several districts according to their area and requirements," be substituted.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his amendment. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

The mover of the original resolution has justified the necessity for this amendment, so it is unnecessary for me to say anything on the subject again.

**Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government to consider the question of sinking tube-wells and renovating, restoring and re-excavating tanks for the

supply of drinking water and of granting subsidies to local authorities for the purpose, wherever necessary.

I do not think that any elaborate speech is necessary on the subject. The fact that there are no less than 11 resolutions placed on the table shows the importance of the subject and I am sure the importance of the subject is fully realised by the Minister in charge of the Public Health Department. This resolution, which I have the honour to move, is not in any way intended to move the so-called apathetic or rather as some people might say the immovable Health Department of Government: what I want to emphasise by moving this resolution is this that the public have felt during the last six months a very strong and crying need for drinking water owing to exceptional drought prevailing in several parts of the country and although I believe that the Government is quite alive to the fact that there is great scarcity of drinking water throughout the province, they have not been able to do anything for want of funds. My resolution is intended to strengthen the hands of Government so that Government may expedite the proposals they wish to bring forward before the Council and they may be assured of the fact that they will receive every sympathetic consideration at the hands of the hon'ble members. We want the Government to take up the subject in right earnest and whatever proposal they may consider necessary. There are different proposals made, some proposing 500 tube-wells, some proposing two lakhs of rupees to be allotted for the purpose and, in various different forms, concrete proposals have been made; but I have not made any concrete proposal. We all know that it is the Government and the Government alone with its large resources of officers and experience and knowledge of affairs are in a better position to formulate a scheme. Therefore, what I want to do by moving the resolution is to strengthen the hands of the Government and ask the Government to expedite the matter and bring forward proposals for the determination of this problem.

With regard to second part of my resolution for restoring, re-excavating and renovating tanks in different parts of Bengal, I think, if the Government consider the feasibility of so amending the Local Self-Government Act as to make it compulsory on the owners of these tanks and ponds to renovate, re-excavate and restore them as may be required in the interests of public health, a great deal of improvement will be effected within a measurable distance of time. We all know that in the urban areas we have got the Municipal Act which empowers the local authorities to call upon the owners of tanks not only to cleanse and fill them for the proper supply of drinking water, but also to remove any cause of infection which may arise from the pollution of drinking water. I think some such procedure ought to be adopted and it will go a great way to mitigate the sufferings caused by the want of pure drinking water.

As regards the subsidies to local bodies, I may mention that although I have used the word " subsidies " I do not mean that it should in all cases be subsidies, but in some cases a dole to the local bodies who may not be able to meet the entire cost. Monetary help to such struggling local bodies who are sincerely anxious to meet the scarcity of drinking water within their own areas is a great encouragement to them.

These are the proposals which I have to make with regard to my resolution which I have put before the House and hope it will receive a sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Hon'ble Minister.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I have your permission to amend my resolution by deleting the words " during the current year "?

The permission, by leave of the Council, was granted.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** My resolution, as amended, runs thus: " This Council recommends to the Government that the initiative in removing the water scarcity of Bengal be taken by providing funds and arranging for the sinking of at least one tube-well in each thana area of Bengal."

When during the last sessions of the Council, we passed a grant of Rs. 50,000 for experiment in boring operations in connection with the water-supply of this province, we naturally felt how pitifully small this amount was to cope with the great scarcity of water, that undoubtedly prevails in this province. We, however, appreciated the fact that the Hon'ble Minister was evidently alive to the seriousness of the question. What, then, was our disappointment to find in this new supplementary budget that is coming in this session, that no provision has been made for this proposal.

Even His Excellency the Governor has been convinced, after his recent short tour in the mufassal, that this question of water-supply is one of the most serious in Bengal. The remarkable drought of the last summer months has brought into ugly prominence the pitiful condition in which the people of the mufassal have to live. For months together, people have died like flies from cholera, simply because they had not any good drinking water.

I do not know if all the members of this Council realise what is the state of affairs during the spring and summer months in the mufassal. Those who spend their summer holidays in Calcutta or Darjeeling may have no chance of knowing it, but we, who live in the mufassal know in what a sad plight we have to live. During the last summer months, some of my zamindari officers in the mufassal left their *cutcherry*, because the tanks had dried up and no good drinking water could be had in the neighbourhood either for love or money. People were straining mud through their cloth to squeeze out some water—and what sort

of water? I wish I could send a sample of that water to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and I am sure no resolution would have been needed to move him to instant action.

It is no use describing the details. They are only too well-known to the mufassal members. The district boards have been doing their utmost, but their funds are limited, their resources are limited. The terrible drought of this year has brought to light another fact, viz., the unreliability of our tanks as constant sources of water-supply. The tanks are, at best, merely reservoirs of rain water, getting filled up in the rainy season and drying up in the summer. They cannot be depended upon in times of drought. It is difficult to keep them from pollution. Then again, rivers which supply drinking water to many villages in Eastern Bengal are getting polluted and silted up. We cannot, therefore, depend on these tanks and rivers for a constant supply of good drinking water. We must tap other water sources which are likely to yield a continuous supply.

Tube-wells have lately come into prominence as affording a continuous source of supply, and I believe that deep down in the soil of Bengal, there are sources of water, which can remove the water scarcity of Bengal, if only they can be tapped, in suitable places. There is a feeling that tube-wells are still in an experimental stage. The mills in and around Calcutta have been utilising tube-wells for a large number of years to remove their water difficulty; they are not in an experimental stage. I have taken expert opinion from Mr. S. Naug, a Bengali gentleman, who has specialised in tube-wells in America and he has assured me that all over Bengal, he can sink tube-wells, which will constantly supply pure drinking water. The cost will not be too much. He has assured me that a good well can be sunk in riparian places in the mufassal for Rs. 1,200 including pumps.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Do you say in riparian municipalities?

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** No, Sir, I mean rural areas. There is a feeling that tube-wells are difficult to manage and mufassal people will not be able to look after them properly. I have it, on the authority of the expert mentioned above, that by fixing small hand-pumps any labourer can easily work them and there is no danger of their getting out of order for a long time at any rate. If the Government will but take the initiative in this matter, the district and union boards will easily follow suit. This is such an important and complicated matter that the local bodies cannot take up such a vast question. In view of this, we naturally expected that the Hon'ble Minister would take up the matter in right earnest. It was, therefore, with the greatest shock that I saw the Hon'ble Minister's reply to a question put by Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh Roy yesterday—when the

Hon'ble Minister said— " it is not practicable for Government to accept liability for the improvement of rural water-supply. The provision of an adequate supply is not impossible, if the cost, like the need, is strictly localised." Sir, I must confess that I do not understand this attitude. Because this need is strictly local, therefore, the cost must be raised locally—a logical syllogism indeed! Are not all needs more or less local? Do not the rural people pay taxes? Has not the Council fastened three taxations, yielding 1½ crores, on the necks of the poor people of this province? Have the district and union boards money enough to successfully tackle this problem? District and union boards may help in the excavation of a tank here and a tank there, but can they take up a matter like this on their own initiative? I submit, Sir, that the question is too wide for them. Let the provincial Government take the initiative and show the way. Then the local bodies will certainly take it up. Let them show that these tube-wells in each thana area will be sufficient to provide for good water in that particular locality. If the people see that these tube-wells are working satisfactorily and they can get a constant supply of good water, they will take to them on their own initiative and this problem of costly water-supply will be solved for ever. There are not more than 600 thanas in Bengal and 600 multiplied by 1,200 means Rs. 7,20,000 and surely this amount, spent on the relief of this great scarcity, is not a very large outlay. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to accept my resolution and tackle the problem in right earnest and not to put forward the curious argument that local needs must be met by local funds.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be allotted to the district boards during the next cold weather for the supply of drinking water in the villages.

We passed a resolution in this Council a year and a half ago by which we recommended that Rs. 2 lakhs be granted to district boards for water-supply. That resolution still holds good, but it has not yet been given effect to. We, the people of Bengal are helpless. Under the Reforms we are told this Council would have supreme power over the transferred subjects, but as our resolutions are not given effect to, I say the people of Bengal are just as helpless as they were before. *Tumi je tumare, tumi she tumare*:" Poor Bengal is in the same darkness as it was before the Reforms." We, people here, are in trepidation while we rise to speak, for we find that in the words of the Psalmist " our words are wrested all day long." But when the Executive, who are supposed to be our servants, openly and defiantly repudiate our resolutions, we can do nothing. The people of Bengal are suffering greatly for the lack of the first necessities of life. It is useless dilating on their agony: it is well-known to our Minister. It is said that we have got no money. We imposed three taxes, but we

could make no provision for a pittance of Rs. 2 lakhs. We have got a surplus of Rs. 50 lakhs and we have got two supplementary budgets, but in the dreary deserts of these pages we find no indication of a drop of water to moisten the parched lips of the people of Bengal. Not only are we helpless, but we find that His Excellency the Governor is equally helpless. He spoke at Rajshahi as follows:—

The two main impressions which I have derived from the tour as a whole are the urgent need for an improvement in the supply of drinking water throughout the district and the necessity of increasing the facilities for medical advice and treatment available for the people These are the needs which in the main must be supplied by local initiative and from local funds but the present deficiency in both respects is so great and so general that some help from Government is certainly required.

He promised to discuss the matter with his Ministers on his return " with every wish to provide as speedy and as efficient remedies as possible." He did not know that, in the meantime, his Ministers have replied to a question by a member that water-supply must be provided for by local funds. I am afraid he too will find himself helpless like us. He has taken this position because he wishes to give the Reforms the fullest chance. But he is here also to enforce the Reforms. He should see that his Ministers give effect to the resolutions of the Council and act in consonance with the wishes of the people.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** What is the date of that resolution and the wording?

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I do not remember the specific date; the wording is practically the same as this resolution I will give it to you later.

The spirit of this Council when it first met and passed the resolution has undergone a change and I am afraid we can no longer be counted upon to enforce our will upon our Ministers. We lie prostrate. We retract and withdraw at every step. Let our Ministers, therefore, take pity on the poor long-suffering people of Bengal and give them the relief so urgently called for.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved, by way of amendment, that for the words and figures " a sum of Rs. 2,00,000," the words " sufficient money " be substituted.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask if one single member can move three resolutions on the same subject?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** This is an amendment of the resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

The Shah Sahib then delivered his speech in Bengali, in support of his amendment, a translation of which is as follows:—

This is an amendment to a resolution. In the original motion, Rs. 2 lakhs have been asked to be provided for. It is an insignificant amount. Rs. 6 or 7 lakhs at least are necessary to erect 500 tube-wells. I would, therefore, ask that some such amount as is sufficient should be provided for for improving the water-supply in this country.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that a general survey of the drinking water scarcity throughout Bengal and a comprehensive scheme of remedial measures be prepared with the help of the district boards and municipalities concerned, and the scheme so prepared be brought before this Council and a definite feasible plan of action be settled and given effect to.

Without discussing the several resolutions moved in this Council, I will simply explain my reasons why, instead of asking for a committee, I suggest a course which, to my mind, will be beneficial to the province. I know full well that my esteemed friend, Sir Surendra Nath, is very keen on this subject and he has large schemes of sanitary improvement in his contemplation, and he will do his utmost to find out the proper way of helping us.

I do not think that the district boards have got less responsibility than Government. The public works cess has been placed at the disposal of the district boards for the purpose of supplying good drinking water, for providing medical relief and other matters of public utility. As the road cess was entirely necessary for the maintenance of roads and bridges, the public works cess was given to the district boards, and if we want to spend any of this, we must find out what is actually required. It will not do to have a tube well in each thana and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's proposal, if accepted, will provide each thana with a tube-well in 3 years. I believe that is his proposal——

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I leave it to the Hon'ble Minister.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** You would like to spend Rs. 7½ lakhs, but it is very difficult to conceive how the whole sum can be provided in one year; but a tube-well in each thana will not remove the scarcity within the jurisdiction of that thana; a thana consists of 70,000 people and extends over several square miles, and one tube-well will not be of any use. My suggestion is that the district boards, with the help of their own officers and the police and the district officers, can easily ascertain what is required within the district, how many wells or how many tanks have to be excavated, what quantity of water is available, and what quantity can be secured from the river also. At any rate we must first know what we actually require. In some cases, it may be that a tube-well will not be a proper remedy. In some cases, tanks may require to be excavated or re-excavated. I know, in some cases, if fishing be allowed,

the villagers would be quite ready to excavate tanks; in this way, if the water be preserved and some precautionary measures taken, I think the tank water in many cases will be of great help, and at the same time it will not be very expensive to Government or the district board. In each district board there is a health officer and there are also overseers, and they can collect the necessary information that is required. If we have a committee here that committee will have to go over 25 districts, and ascertain facts that can easily be supplied by each district board or municipality. When this information is collected, a summary of the proposals can be prepared and then, on that information, a discussion may be helpful in this Council, or, if necessary, the Minister can hold a conference with selected representatives and a well thought-out scheme can be prepared in which the district board and the local board and the Government can take part in removing the water scarcity. Tube-wells are not always successful. I know that recently in the Rajshahi Central Jail, a tube-well has been sunk—I do not know the exact expenditure—but the other day I heard from the Superintendent, in the presence of the gentleman who installed it, that it was not doing well; of course I heard that the tube-well in the Kanchrapara Jail was working well. The same gentleman, who installed it at Kanchrapara, also installed it in the Rajshahi Central Jail. We must ascertain if the people, who instal these wells, can guarantee their continuance and reliability for 15 or 20 years; in that case, we can place some reliance on them. I know that there are two or three American Companies here that are trying to solve the question of sinking tube-wells at a moderate cost ranging from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,200 for each well My idea is that it will not be safe to spend so much money on these wells when we are not sure that they will be successful. My plan is to have the necessary information collected and to ascertain what help we can expect from the persons concerned or from the district boards; they should also contribute as it is the primary duty of the district boards, and they should not forget this primary duty in regard to sanitation. They are spending money in retaining health officers and other sanitary overseers, but the first duty is to supply good drinking water. I believe that our Hon'ble Minister will be glad to help, but the district boards must take the initiative and ascertain what is actually required, and what help can be secured from the local people. In some places where there are several co-sharers in a zamindari, if the raivats are anxious to have a tank, the zamindars want an exorbitant *nazar* (Cries of "Question, question"). I speak of what I know personally. I myself have got some zamindari; there may be exceptions and I believe there are several worthy men, but the difficulties are there all the same. These matters have to be dealt with. My friend, Khan Bahadur Emdaduddin, Chairman of the District Board of Rajshahi, is here and he can say whether it is not a real fact. However, I am a mufassal man, I have sufficient experience of the

mufassal, and I know as a matter of fact of several cases where people complain that they could not secure a suitable position for excavating a tank.

Hailing as I do from the mufassal, I have sufficient experience in the matter. I know, as a matter of fact, that in many cases the people complain that they cannot find opportunity for excavating tanks though they are prepared to spend money for the purpose. In some cases, they are actually prepared to raise money by loan for the purpose, to be repaid with or without interest, say, within 8 or 10 years. So, the best thing for us is to ascertain their requirements, the ways and means, and the cheapest method as to how the question of water-supply can be solved with the minimum amount of expenditure and with the maximum amount of good results, and then I am confident the Hon'ble Minister will be in a position to prepare a comprehensive scheme.

Before resuming my seat, I would only mention one or two points. Before sinking a tube-well a geological survey is necessary so that we may ascertain that at a certain depth and at a certain strata good drinking water may be available. It will be of great help to us and then we can depend upon the contractors and their services in regard to this will be fully utilised to our benefit. I would therefore ask the Council to consider this question which is a simple one and which is this: first of all we must gather information and then prepare a scheme, and upon that let us proceed.

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to initiate a comprehensive project or projects for providing a cheap and pure supply of drinking water not only in towns but also in rural areas with special reference to the possibility of obtaining such supplies by sinking tube-wells on an economic basis on an extensive scale all over the country.

There is no question which has agitated the public mind more deeply than the one relating to the adequate supply of cheap and pure drinking water in Bengal. It would be an injustice not to recognise the anxiety and earnestness of Government to tackle this problem which has since become increasingly pressing. The severity of the drought, which was felt all over Bengal in March and April last, has accentuated the necessity for immediate steps being taken for grappling with the problem of water-supply in plain earnest. Although any number of resolutions have been recorded, pious wishes expressed, and even warnings given by Government for years past to improve matters, one must frankly confess that no tangible results have so far been attained. If the truth were to be told, the history of any efforts which have been put forth has been a history of disappointments and failures. Any one acquainted with village life will perhaps bear me out when I say that scarcity of drinking water was never more acute and distressing than in March and April last when, under a cloudless sky and a blazing sun,

nine-tenths of the tanks had totally dried up and the people in most of the affected areas fell victims to cholera and other epidemic diseases. It is a well-known fact that even in normal times the water available in interior villages for drinking is full of filth and dirt.

No one can deny the fact that Government had been alive to the necessity and importance of this matter for a series of years. Ever since 1904, scarcely an opportunity has been missed by successive Lieutenant-Governors and Governors to impress upon local bodies the fact that the provision of drinking water in rural areas is one of the pressing needs of Bengal.

In the Local Self-Government Circular No. 7T (L. S. G.), dated 24th May, 1910, the then Secretary made the following pertinent observations:—

> The opinion has been expressed that the fact of an actual deficiency in the quantity of water available in rural areas for drinking purposes was exceptional, but the need of extensive improvement of the sources of supply was emphasized and the existence of that need is undeniable.
>
> The resources of district boards are now liberally augmented by Government by the annual grants made in the proportion of 25 per cent. of the sums realised as roads cess, and the majority of districts should have no difficulty in providing money for a reasonable and regular improvement of the supplies of drinking water.

As a result of an informal conference held at Darjeeling in October, 1912, the Government of Lord Carmichael, recorded an important Resolution (No. 1518 L. S.-G.) on the 11th of November, 1912, in which the hope was expressed that "each District Board and each Union Committee should at once begin to work on the lines proposed above to increase the number of tanks at the disposal of the public for drinking water and to preserve their purity, and that all concerned, officials and non-officials, zamindars and raiyats, will co-operate even at personal sacrifice to remove the reproach which rests upon the Presidency." Lord Carmichael did not, however, stop here. On the 3rd of November, 1913, he took an important step in advance, and decided to augment the resources of the district boards by surrendering the public works cess. In February, 1914, Government, in their important circular No. 383-92M., addressed to the Divisional Commissioners, conveyed the desire of His Excellency in Council to impress upon the district boards, the importance of setting apart a substantial sum for the sanitation of villages and small towns, for the improvement of water-supply and for anti-malarial measures. Instructions were also issued at the same time regarding the measures to be taken for providing a pure water-supply in the interior. On the 25th of September, 1915, another important circular No. 2319-23 L. S.-G., was issued by Government in which after making the following remarks:—"It has been the consistent policy of Government to reserve to itself the powers of ear-marking a portion of the public works less for the improvement of water-supply and similar objects," Government felt the necessity of giving a warning to district

boards against any increase in establishment or other recurring expenditure which might absorb a large part of the additional income from the public works cess. Government went a step further and impressed upon the district boards the desirability of spending large sums of money in the excavation of tanks in rural areas.

In March, 1917, Government felt again the necessity of circularising the Divisional Commissioners on this subject, and it was observed that during the year (1915-16), 25·3 per cent. of the public works cess had been spent on water-supply by all the district boards taken together, but that in some districts the proportion which the expenditure on water-supply bore to the public works cess receipts was under 11 per cent., while in one district it was as low as 6 per cent.

In the concluding paragraph of this circular, the Governor in Council deprecated the tendency to devote to communications large sums in excess of both the road cess receipts and augmentation grants and reiterated the desirability of utilising the public works cess specially for the improvement of water-supply, and urged the necessity of subjecting the budget estimates of district boards to careful scrutiny to see that adequate provision was made for expenditure on water-supply.

My only justification for making the above extracts is to show how the district boards had failed to appreciate and discharge their responsibilities in a matter of such vital importance in spite of repeated advice and warning.

A cursory examination of the figures showing the expenditure by district boards from year to year will unfold the same disappointing picture of neglected responsibilities.

I will not belittle the magnitude of the problem with which we are confronted. The surrender of the public works cess has, no doubt, set free about Rs. 29 lakhs a year, but is that amount sufficient for the requirements of the province? It is obvious that district boards have misapplied the funds at their disposal and spent more on communications and less on schemes of water-supply with the result that the solution of the problem is as far off as ever. The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, who had realised the gravity of the situation and applied his mind to the solution of the problem with his characteristic thoroughness and attention to details, had expressed himself as follows, and I take this opportunity to quote his language:—

> The Government, the Commissioners of Divisions, the District Magistrates and the Members of District Boards must realise that 42 millions and odd (out of a total population of 46 millions and odd) of the people of this province are vitally interested in this question and that it requires immediate settlement. The Government will be lacking in a very important duty if it does not do all it can to solve the problem of water-supply.

The resources of the district boards have been materially replenished, but they have, in the absence of definite and well-laid schemes, failed to apply their funds for providing drinking water to the people.

The first step is, therefore, to prepare schemes after ascertaining the needs of each thana. For doing so the crop and forest areas, waste and riverside lands, need not be taken into account as the necessity is limited only to such of the populated areas where there are no existing sources of supply of good drinking water. This can easily be done by the district boards and local bodies at a comparatively small outlay if they invite public co-operation.

Unless this has been done, first energies and resources are bound to be frittered away as heretofore, with the result that public discontent will grow in volume and intensity throughout the province.

The next step will be to organise a systematic campaign in which the public should be invited to participate. The problem is undoubtedly stupendous and the resources of local bodies are limited.

Private effort and public spirit are essential for the success of the campaign. I am sure it will be an easy task to stimulate both. If sites are acquired by Land Acquisition proceedings, many a tank will be excavated and maintained for public benefit by individuals solely at their own cost, provided the right of fishery is given to them. Even the cost of acquiring the land may be recovered if the raised land round about the lake or tank is settled permanently as homestead sites. There will be no dearth of applicants.

The next and by far the most important question is the possibility of tube-wells in Bengal as a cheap source of supply of pure drinking water.

Mr. F. J. Norman has recorded the results of his long personal observations about cheap tube-wells in Japan and he is enthusiastic about the introduction of the system in India. It is known as the Kazusa system of deep boring for water. Mr. Norman has observed in his interesting book:—

> That the *Kazusa* system of deep boring could be introduced into India, and with very great advantage too, my experience of that country (Japan) and its people thoroughly persuades me.

He is of opinion that Kazusa wells could be easily sunk in localities with suitable geological formation, such as existed in and about the Ganjee Valley and certain tracts in the Punjab and the United Provinces. Such wells are ordinarily carried to depths of 300, 480 and 720 feet by means of a very simple outfit cheaply and easily procurable in all parts of India and capable of being handled by any village *mistry*. A complete and new outfit could be got for much less than 120 yen on Rs. 180. A complete turn-out of American or European well-boring apparatus, on the other hand, costs 7,000 to 8,000 yen landed in Yokohama. Mr. Norman, writing in favour of the introduction of the Kazusa system of boring for water into India, has observed:—

> The initial outlay on a *Kazusa* well-boring apparatus is small, perhaps capable of being made in India for less than Rs. 200. It is so simple in construction and to operate as to be well within the managing range of an ordinary Indian villager.

Being light and portable, it can be transported about with ease and inexpensively, the piping used for the boring hole being but hollow bamboos is cheap.

The average life of a well in Japan is 30 years. The water from 720 feet strata is both plentiful and good with a distinct sulphurous taste and odour when it comes bubbling up which, however, vanishes quickly upon exposure to the air and sunlight. The water is valued for drinking purposes in Japan as it possesses considerable medicinal properties. The *Kazusa* well is nothing more or less than an artesian well. The sinking of a purely irrigation well does not cost more than Rs. 45 in Japan. A well for drinking water is sunk by a band of six operators in a short time at a cost not exceeding 100 yen as labour charges. I believe there are immense possibilities for introducing this system of wells not only in towns but also in the villages.

**Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** I beg to support the resolution moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. I take it that the object of this resolution on this important question is to discuss the scarcity of drinking water in rural Bengal. The Hon'ble Minister is well aware of this question and from several districts he has got first-hand information as regards this question. Now, Sir, various speakers have given various suggestions for the solution of this question. Tube-wells can only succeed where there is a concentrated population, such as in mills, in municipalities and in jails, but in rural Bengal, where population is scattered, tube-wells can never be a success and my submission is that money will be wasted. The question of rural water-supply is a question of money pure and simple and nothing more. If I remember aright, three or four years ago before the Reforms were inaugurated, Dr. Bentley issued a note and in that note he despaired of the solution of this problem, because the magnitude of the task was so vast that the resources of the country were not sufficient to get it through. Now, Sir, the question has been hinted at that the several local bodies, municipalities or the district boards are not fully alive to the question. That is not right. They are fully alive to the question and they are doing their utmost with the limited resources at their disposal. It has been said that the public works cess has been placed at the disposal of the district boards, but is forgotten that, with the formation of union boards, with the increase in the cost of various other materials, and with the limited resources of the district boards, their power is being diminished from day to day. The question of supplying fresh and copious drinking water in rural Bengal can never be solved unless sufficient money is placed in the hands of the district boards. It seems to me that the only way of removing this scarcity of water-supply in rural Bengal is by re-excavating the old tanks and by digging new wells. Tube-wells, as has been pointed out by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, will cost at the minimum Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,200. The Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Limited, have invented a kind of tube-well the cost of which is estimated at about Rs. 3,000. But there is a cheaper kind of tube-wells sold by Messrs. Leslie & Co. which can be had at Rs. 800. They are, however, very small and the success of

these tube-wells depend on the character on the soil. Experience has shown that at some place the soil is so sandy that these tube-wells cannot be sunk and so, Sir, they will never be a success. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said that if you take one tube-well in each thana the cost will be enormous and I do not think that district boards will be able to take up such a costly scheme. The only solution of this particular problem lies in re-excavating old tanks and digging wells. I submit that a 3 feet diameter well can be sunk at a cost between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 according to the rate prevalent in various districts and a 4 feet diamter well can be sunk at a cost between Rs. 800 and Rs. 900 Some of the union boards desire to take up this question, but they are handicapped for want of funds. I know some of the union boards desire to bring this fact to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister if he will be prepared to lend them some money, I think the question may be solved by them. I do not know whether district boards in Bengal will be prepared to lend money even on the security of their revenue for the repayment of their loans. Now, Sir, the question of loans in rural areas is a difficult one as the local people are not disposed to lend money to the district boards or union boards and I believe many hon'ble members of this House are aware that the Retrenchment Committee has asked the opinions of several district boards whether it is possible to increase the rate of road-cess. That is a question which can be solved at some future time, but at the present moment what I suggest to the Hon'ble Minister is to supplement the resources of the district boards by grants from the Government. There is an anti-malarial scheme taken up by Government for eradicating malaria, which is due to bad drinking water and my submission is, Sir, that the supply of good drinking water may be taken up as one of the items in the anti-malarial programme in rural Bengal. I respectfully submit that the Hon'ble Minister will be good enough to consider the resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** The question of water scarcity is undoubtedly a very important one. This scarcity is recurring year after year and has become almost a matter of certainty. Various proposals have been placed before us in the midst of which we find some difficulty to make out which should be acceptable to us. I find the best solution would be to give our support to the proposal of having a committee to inquire with a view to settle this question to remove this chronic difficulty. I am not one of those who have any prejudice against tube-wells. Recently we had to meet the same difficult question of water scarcity in connection with Calcutta; and there was a committee of which I was a member, who undertook to find out whether it was possible to have tube-wells successfully introduced into Calcutta. Some experienced gentlemen were invited and were consulted in that connection and we realised that

the problem was not so easy as some of my friends seemed to think. You cannot have tube-wells successfully sunk in all places. A mere tube-well not touching the spring below, *i.e.*, a surface tube-well, if I may so call it, is not at all worth having. But a deep and well constructed tube-well will cost you a lot of money, from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 and not only that, but as a medical man I have realised that while there is the possibility of getting good drinking water from a tube-well there is at the same time the great risk of the water being contaminated by surface water going along the sides of the tube-well into the spring below. Mr. Scott, the expert, who was consulted by the Corporation Committee, explained to us how it was possible, if the work was badly done, for this contamination to arise. These are the reasons which have made me rather cautious in pronouncing any opinion upon this question without further investigation. I have also found from the literature which I have been able to get in this connection that experiments were done with tube-wells by that eminent Engineer, Rai Mutadin Sukul. In Rajshahi experiments were done some time ago in digging tube-wells in different portions of that district. I mentioned that fact in the meeting of this Council on the 13th of July last in connection with the demand for Scheme No. 26 under "Agriculture." I do not want to take up the time of the Council by repeating what I said on that occasion, but I would ask Government not to neglect the past experience.

There is another point which strikes me as rather against the use of tube-wells being popular in rural areas. It is the question of untouchability. I do not think there is anything to be afraid of regarding this untouchability question in Calcutta and its surroundings. But I have very little information about the mufassal. From what I have heard from some of my mufassal friends, I am disposed to ask the Council not to altogether belittle the question. If a committee is formed, it might consider whether the question of untouchability would not stand in the way of the usefulness of tube-wells. Both among the Hindus and Muhammadans, there are orthodox as well as liberal persons. It may be that in places where modern civilisation has entered, this question of untouchability has practically been solved, but there are distant rural places where perhaps this question might stand in the way of the success of the tube-wells.

There is a further question, the question of reserved tanks. I have not been able to make out whether tube-wells would solve this water scarcity question to such an extent that reserved tanks could be done away with. I am of opinion that reserved tanks, when properly kept, go a great way to solve the question of drinking water scarcity. Most of the difficulties in this respect would disappear if steps are properly taken to observe the regulation for the use of the tanks. Besides tube-wells and reserved tanks, there is another alternative, viz., deep and spacious masonry wells. If they are properly constructed and protected,

I venture to submit, they may be good substitutes for reserved tanks. I understand that in a deep well of large dimensions the question of untouchability does not arise. These are some of my points, which may be placed before the committee if one is appointed. In any case, I ask the Hon'ble Minister, instead of committing himself to one definite idea, to appoint a committee so that the whole question may be discussed in all its bearings and definite findings might be arrived at and placed before the Council. I realise that there is very little time to lose. We are now in the middle of August and with the advent of March next we are sure to have water scarcity again—at least this has been our experience for some years past. So before the month of March comes again I devoutly wish that something should be done with a view of tackle the question. I therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to appoint a committee with instructions to submit their report within three or four months. If, however, the appointment of a committee means the shelving of this all-important question, I should be the last person to support it. Up and doing as the Hon'ble Minister has been in several other matters, I hope it will be possible for him to formulate a scheme for the prevention of water scarcity within the next three or four months or at best to minimise its intensity in the coming months of March, April and May.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** I may be permitted to give certain facts which would go to show how difficult a task it is to remove the water scarcity and how far the district boards in the mufassal are prepared in this direction. Some time ago, according to the Government circular, the sources of water-supply were examined. If I remember aright, so far as my district board is concerned, a map was prepared showing all the places where there was water scarcity, and we submitted this question this year before His Excellency. I remember all the facts and I may recapitulate them to show how difficult the task really is.

There are about 6,500 villages in Rajshahi district and our attention was drawn to about 1,400 of them which suffer badly from water scarcity. Since that time we took particular care to ascertain how many villages were badly affected and how many were without water during the last summer. As a result, we found that nearly 1,200 villages required special attention. Now by experience we knew that masonry wells were the best to provide good drinking water, but such wells would cost us about Rs. 1,200 each and by calculation we found that about Rs. 15 lakhs would be required to remove this water scarcity. Fancy whether it would be possible for the Government to provide all this money. This is a serious question, and to my mind there is no practical solution of the difficulty at the present moment unless some means is devised to compel the people to contribute towards the construction of these wells. In this connection I may be permitted to mention here the

procedure which obtained before. Formerly the procedure was that one-third of the cost of the sinking of wells or of the excavation of tanks was met by Government, one-third by the district board and the remaining one-third by the local people. Some of my friends have accused the district boards of not having acted up to their responsibility in recent times. Far from it. I do not know how it happens—the Government does not pay its one-third share, nor do the local people, with the result that the district board has to bear the whole burden of meeting this enormous sum of Rs. 15,00,000. Is it possible for a district board to pay such an enormous sum? I therefore think that the old system should continue to be in force, by which Government should pay something—the district board of course is alive to the situation—and the local people ought to be compelled to contribute something. In the mufassal the villagers usually squander away their money, and it is for their benefit that compulsion is necessary in this direction. I do not know whether the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act is applicable in this instance or not. However, I would request the Government to consider if this Act is sufficient for the purpose, and, if necessary, legislation should be undertaken to realise money in this behalf from the local people. Of course, we shall be quite prepared to extend this period of realisation to five years. So if you do something which would compel the local people to contribute, it is then and then only that the question can be solved, otherwise not.

As regards the digging of tanks, I think masonry wells are preferable to tanks. As remarked by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, some co-sharers might take into their heads how to derive the largest benefit from the tank and might commence fishing in it. But we have found out by experience that fishing makes the whole water of a tank unsuitable for drinking purposes, because usually they go deeper and deeper into the tank for fishing. It is indeed difficult to guard the tanks, whilst it is not so in the case of masonry wells. These wells have been very successful and there is a fairly good demand for them. In one case I know a tank has become overgrown with weeds and consequently its water has become unsuitable for drinking purposes, so that the very man who first prayed for the tank has now applied to us for a masonry well. As regards tube-wells, these are at an experimental stage, and we are making experiments with one at the Sadar and another at Naogaon and another at Nator. However, we recommend and prefer masonry wells either to tube-wells or tanks, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps to compel the local people to contribute not only towards its initial but also its recurring cost, and I hope he would do something in this direction.

As regards the formation of a committee, I may say at once that I am against it as I do not want to have the matter shelved indefinitely. Experience shows that every year an epidemic of cholera breaks out in

Lalpur, a village of Nator subdivision, when there is scarcity of water. The question is very important and I trust something will be done before the next cold weather sets in.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** In the first place I desire to congratulate the House upon the awakened interest which it has evinced in this great problem of water-supply of the province. I claim that Government has contributed very largely towards producing this new interest in this important question, and it has partly been helped by the unfortunate happenings last year in connection with the drought we had in summer, and the outbreak of cholera in certain parts of the province. You will remember that about this time last year, Government appointed a committee—I think you, Sir, were a member of that committee—for the purpose of reporting on the question of water-supply in the riparian municipalities on the left bank of the Hooghly; Mr. D. B. Williams was the Chairman of that committee. In the report which they submitted, the committee recommended a system of tube-wells for the riparian municipalities. This report has been circulated among the municipalities concerned, and I am glad to be able to say that 8 out of the total number of municipalities in the riparian area have already applied to the Sanitary Engineer to the Government to frame schemes for sinking tube-wells within their jurisdiction. We proceeded further than that. We circulated this report among the district boards and municipalities of the province, inviting their attention to the recommendations of the committee and asking them to consider them in the light of the local conditions. Nor is this all—sometimes we are charged with apathy and neglect—and even with callousness to human suffering. No charge could be a greater calumny. We our doing our best. We have appointed a committee to report on the question of water-supply for the right bank of the Hooghly and that committee has been furnished with the report to which I have referred. That indeed does not exhaust the sum total of our efforts within the short time that the new responsible Government has been in office. We feel—and this debate has confirmed my view— that the system of tube-wells is perhaps not the sole solution of the question of water-supply and that there are other consideration which have to be taken into account; and I am glad to find that a note of warning has been sounded, in the course of the discussion, by my esteemed friends, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji, who is so familiar with the rural conditions in the Hooghly district.

The problem of water-supply is one of the most complicated, and one of the most difficult. It has baffled the efforts of successive Lieutenant-Governors and Governors and now we are confronted with this great problem, as yet unsolved but recognised by public opinion, as one that needs urgent attention. That is the position. We are confronted with this difficult problem; it urgently needs a solution. The Council asks

the Government to solve it. The Council has to lay down the policy and it is for the Government to follow it, but matters of detail should be left to Government. We constitute the executive authority; you lay down the policy and the principles, as they do in the House of Commons; the details must be carried out by the Government itself. I am unable to accept the proposition that a committee should be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into this very large question. Let us analyse the problem and look at it a little more closely. The committee according to the terms of the Resolution, is to consist of 8 or 9 members. Is it to be a stationary committee sitting in Calcutta and deliberating on the question of water-supply for the province? Or is it to be a peripatetic body moving from place to place in order to ascertain local conditions, local sentiment and local opinion? I presume that the opinion of the House will be that it should be a peripatetic body. That being so, we have to bear in mind that there are 29 districts in Bengal, and the committee would have to visit every one of them. Assuming that the committee should spend 15 days in every district—the shortest limit of time that can be assigned—it would take at least 14 months to visit the districts and collect information. It will take two or three months to deliberate and submit its report, and that brings us to nearly 16 or 17 months. Government will also take a few months to consider the report. Therefore, for a period of at least 20 months or so, nothing will be done; no solution will be arrived at; every effort will be suspended; and in the meantime our people will suffer from the scarcity of water and all the evil effects consequent thereon. I ask my friends—Are they prepared to face a contingency like that? Do they want a repetition of the horrors which we witnessed last summer, which thrilled the community through and through and created a sense of deep distress in our minds? Do they want a repetition of this state of things? If they do, let them have such a committee; we are prepared to appoint one. If they do not, and believe that prompt action is necessary, then I say that such action can only be taken through the agency of Government. You can lay down the policy, you can ask the Government to do so and so, and having done that, you can make the Government responsible for the execution of that policy, the details being left to the Government and Government alone. Therefore, it is obvious that a committee should not be appointed, and the first motion must fall through. I hope you will not accept it.

Then I come to the question of the framing of a programme. My friend, Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji, for whose knowledge of local conditions I have great respect, fixes a time-limit of ten years; he says that a ten years' programme should be framed. My friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, says that we must make a survey of the areas which suffered from drought. My friend, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, also wants a comprehensive survey. Now, I desire to tell my friends that this is exactly what we are doing at the present moment in different ways. We have not done it by a flourish of trumpets; we have not got

advertising agents to proclaim our achievements to the outside world. We are doing our quiet work in the solitude, the silence and the seclusion of the Secretariat. We have been doing steady, useful and honest work, and let me tell you what we have been doing. I will give you an insight into our work—I will not call it an achievement. We hold that the questions of water-supply and anti-malarial operations are indissolubly linked together and go hand in hand. Perhaps a third question might also be added, and that is the improvement of agriculture. All these three things are inter-linked and go together. Whatever will reduce malaria, whatever will improve the water-supply and whatever will increase our agricultural prosperity are bound to act and react upon one another and add to the health and prosperity of the community. That is the view of the Government; that is the object which Government seeks to accomplish.

Not long ago Dr. Bentley along with Mr. Huntingford visited Jessore and made a thorough inspection of the neighbourhood, went round the place in connection with water-supply and anti-malarial operations. I had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Dr. Bentley. He has been able to collect valuable materials which will be available in solving the water-supply problem in the area effected.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** May I inquire how many days they stayed at Jessore?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** They stayed long enough for their purpose. I am not prepared to answer that question. I do not think anybody has a right to ask such a question. I am amazed to find such a question coming from an hon'ble member who is usually cautious in his remarks. I say, Sir, that they stayed long enough for their purpose—you may take that on my authority—and they have collected valuable information which I am sure will be most useful for our water-supply scheme in the affected area. When the scheme is laid before me I shall be happy to ask you (pointing to Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra) to inspect it and favour Government with your opinion.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Is the Hon'ble Minister in order in addressing an individual member in that way?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think the Hon'ble Minister should be allowed to proceed.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I claim, Sir, that I am perfectly in order. I am acquainted with Parliamentary procedure and I know that when a member is interrupted, he is entitled to reply to the interruption.

Next, our idea is to send out Dr. Bentley and Mr. Huntingford, and, if possible, the Director of Agriculture, to the various districts and

ascertain the local conditions with a view to elaborate schemes of water-supply and anti-malarial operations, and, if possible, of agricultural improvement. That is the position. As they proceed from district to district they will get their ideas and formulate their schemes. It is precisely what Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri wants; that is precisely what Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji wants; that is also what Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy wants; and these are the things which are being done by us without a flourish of trumpets, and I hope that in view of what we are doing my friends will not press their motions so far as this particular matter is concerned.

There is another point in this connection which I desire to emphasise. His Excellency the Governor has been taking a keen interest in the water supply problem and I had an opportunity of discussing the matter with him. It is the intention of Government to convene a conference at an early date in the winter for the purpose of discussing this problem of water-supply for the whole of Bengal, and I am authorised to state that His Excellency will open the conference. Representatives from the rural and urban areas will be invited to it, and will have an opportunity of discussing this important question and laying their views before it. Is it posible to devise any other machinery—call it a committee or whatever you like—more effective for the purpose of focussing valuable information and expert opinion than a conference of this kind? I am sure the matured views of the conference will be carefully considered by the Government and an endeavour will be made to give effect to them. Therefore, it seems to me that in view of the conference which we propose to hold, the appointment of a committee or the formulation of a programme to which some of my friends have referred, is unnecessary, and I hope and trust that they will withdraw their motions in this connection. I find that my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, nods assent to my proposal.

Then I come to the question of artesian wells. I claim, in one sense, to have given an impetus to the whole movement in this regard, and I am surprised to find language used in the Council in regard to myself in this connection which should not have been used at all. Nobody had thought of these tube-wells until we published the report of the Williams Committee and until we took part in some experiments.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** In my budget speech of the first year, before you published the report, if you will look up the proceedings, you will see that I raised this point.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I am very glad to see that my friend anticipated it. At any rate if my friend has anticipated me, I may at least take the credit of having given an impetus, an unwonted impetus may I say, to the whole movement in connection with tube-wells, for the movement has now behind it the

authority of Government. Well then, Sir, evidently there is considerable difference of opinion with regard to the efficacy of tube-wells. There are areas in which tube-wells cannot be sunk, and where they will not work properly. The original motion of Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy was that there should be 20 tube-wells in every district. I think that was his motion. It is absolutely impossible to have tube-wells in every district. Take, for instance, the district of Jalpaiguri. The District Board of Jalpaiguri has written to us to say that tube-wells are impossible in that district. Therefore, to ask this Council to accept a motion of that kind, viz., that there should be a tube-well in every district is to ask the Council to agree to something which goes against the considered opinion of the people conversant with local conditions. That proposition seems to me to be absolutely untenable, viz., that we should have 20 tube-wells in every district without reference to the character of the soil. Everything depends upon the nature of the soil; nor can we have tube-wells in the district of Bankura. My advisers tell me that in rocky and granite soil, tube-wells cannot be sunk and we have in Bengal districts which are rocky and where the soil is granite. That being so, that proposition must be rejected.

Then, Sir, much more untenable is the proposition of my friend over there, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. He wants a tube-well in every thana. We have 637 thanas. He wants a tube-well in every one of them, in Jalpaiguri, in Bankura, and indeed in every place, no matter what the conditions of the soil are. May I ask him with all deference whether he considers this to be a reasonable, a sound and responsible proposition, which should be laid for the acceptance of this Council? I do not think so at all. Will my friend reconsider this matter in the light of the facts which I have mentioned and modify his views? Therefore, it is obvious that we cannot have a tube-well in every thana. It is obvious that we cannot have tube-wells in every district.

My friend, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, wants to have 500 tube-wells for all Bengal. Somebody here has said that the cost of a tube-well is Rs. 800. My friend, Dr. Haridhan Dutt, has told us that the average cost is about Rs. 5,000. I think that he is nearer the mark. I think that there are tube-wells which cost Rs. 10,000 if the bore is big and if you have to go down to, say, 250 feet. Then again, there are tube-wells which cost a great deal less than that. Therefore, it would be a safe thing to say that on an average a tube-well costs Rs. 5,000. Five hundred tube-wells all over Bengal at a cost of Rs. 5,000 would mean Rs. 25,00,000.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** What about the Japanese system?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Is it suitable for this country? Has it been tried here on any extensive scale? We cannot waste our money upon wild experiments. We have to do these

things very cautiously. We must, indeed sometimes, make experiments, and I may mention that in four places, experiments will shortly be made with tube-wells, viz., Bally, Pabna, Bogra and Rampur-Boalia. We want to give this system a trial. Our policy of water-supply is simple: it is to sink tube-wells wherever practicable, but where it is not, to re-excavate old tanks, and link them up if possible, with permanent sources of water-supply.

My friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, has made an admirable suggestion, viz., that we should apply to the rural areas the system which was in vogue in Calcutta, viz., that tanks should be re-excavated on the requisition of the local authorities. I think it is a good idea, and when the Local Self-Government Act comes to be revised, I have no doubt that Mr. Goode and Mr. Tindall will bear this in mind. Therefore, Sir, so far as the resolutions regarding these tube-wells are concerned, we cannot accept them. The matter has not been tested, and Government cannot embark upon doubtful measures and waste public money. Government feel their sense of responsibility in this connection which I am sure you will approve of. This disposes of all the resolutions regarding tube-wells.

I have already spoken on the resolution regarding the appointment of a committee and also regarding the drawing up of a programme. Lastly, I come to the resolution of my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. He wants Rs. 2 lakhs to be made over to district boards for water-supply purposes before winter. Well, I may be prepared to do that by reappropriation of loans which are discharged by local bodies, if the district boards will come forward with definite schemes and plans and place them on a business-like footing, so that we can advance the loans. I think that will satisfy my friend.

One word more. I think that I may accept the proposition of my friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, with an amendment.

**Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur:** Will that money be given as a grant or as a loan?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Loan!

**Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur:** Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur wants the money as a grant and not as a loan if I understand him aright.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** He wants only Rs. 2 lakhs and is quite satisfied with loans. I do not think that anybody has any right to put into his resolution a meaning which he himself does not put on it.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I want a grant and not a loan.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** We cannot give you a grant. We are prepared to give you what we have. I think I have explained that we are prepared to advance a loan of two lakhs to district boards by reappropriation. I think my meaning is quite plain. There can be no dispute about it. You were quite satisfied with it and would have remained so but for the interruption.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble the Minister should address the Chair and not carry on a conversation with the members.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** This is the form of the resolution which I think I may accept. I have modified it—

"This Council recommends to the Government to consider the question of sinking tube-wells and renovating, restoring and re-excavating tanks for the supply of drinking water and of giving loans or making such grants to local authorities as may be practicable and necessary."

That is the proposition which I am prepared to accept on behalf of Government. I hope that in view of what I have said, my friends, who have moved the various resolutions, will withdraw them.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** So far as my resolution is concerned, in view of what the Hon'ble the Minister has said, I beg to withdraw it. I do not think that anything more is necessary.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** Since the inauguration of the Reforms, we have often been amused with fine speeches with regard to the rural water-supply and we have been waiting and waiting to find something more substantial than fine speeches which are not sufficient to drive away malaria and water scarcity from the province. Before I submitted my resolution, I put the following question to the Hon'ble the Minister—unstarred question No. 87—which was replied to yesterday:—

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say what steps he proposes to take for removing the scarcity of drinking water in the rural areas?

(*b*) From what sources does the Hon'ble the Minister propose to meet the cost of these works?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) Government cannot undertake ordinarily to provide funds in the form of grants from provincial revenues for rural water-supply, as this is a local need which is more properly a charge on the funds of local bodies.

You will see that the reply is neither here nor there. It has shelved the real question that I put and there is no proper reply.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I rise to a point of order. Is it permissible to make criticisms upon a question to which an answer had been given in this Council? It is not in the nature of a reply to the observations which I have just made.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** From the reply to this important question put by me it is clear there is no definite scheme before the Hon'ble the Minister to lay before this Council. Therefore, there was no other alternative but to ask for a committee to work out a comprehensive scheme for the whole province. In my resolution there is no suggestion whatsoever that all the activities of the Government should be postponed till the report of the committee is out. Of course it will take some time before a comprehensive scheme is prepared for the whole province, but that does not mean that all the activities of the Government should be suspended and that people should die of thirst and malaria and other diseases for which the Hon'ble the Minister is so very anxious. If he is really so anxious, then he should not shelve the question. In his reply, he said that this was a local need and that local bodies must find the money for that. I ask this House if there was money enough to help municipalities, why should there not be money for helping local authorities in providing water-supply for the whole province? If we examine, for the last ten years, the amount expended on rural areas as well as municipalities, we will find that a very large amount has been expended in aiding and supplementing the resources of municipalities, but there is no reason why the same claim should not be put forward by the district boards as well. It has been said that since the surrender of the public works cess, the funds of district boards have been greatly augmented and, therefore, the district boards should bear the cost. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that since the surrender of the cess, many responsibilities have been imposed on district boards, such as, the entertainment of Health Officers, free vaccination and maintenance of doctors, charitable dispensaries, and other things. After meeting all these charges, it will be seen that there is very little left to devote to the improvement of water-supply. The district boards are trying their best to improve the water-supply as much as they can. As I have pointed out in my speech, in the case of the District Board of Pabna, it would take 126 years before it can sink one well in each village. That is a task which is an impossible one; the district boards cannot be expected to remove all the want of drinking water within a reasonable time. When I moved this resolution, my object was to prepare a scheme and at the same time to find out ways and means. I do not say that Government should pay the entire cost; I simply say that it should be left to the committee to decide which would be the best way of providing money for all these things. The Hon'ble the Minister has said that the committee will have to go to each district and stay there for

at least 15 days. I do not think that such a procedure would be necessary because the conditions obtaining in all the districts of the province are almost uniform. Districts can conveniently be classified into two or three classes and it will require only examination of these conditions to find out what scheme of water-supply would be best for a particular district or particular group of districts. For instance, the Hon'ble the Minister has said that tube-wells cannot be a success in particular districts but that they would be suitable as regards other districts. By that way, the committee may classify the districts. As the Hon'ble the Minister has not yet succeeded in finding out any comprehensive scheme for the whole province, there is no reason why he should come forward to oppose this resolution which aims at the very thing which he stands so much in need of. Then there have been some suggestions whether there should be a loan from Government or a subsidy. My resolution is silent on the point because it is only the representatives of the people of the province who can say what would be the best way of helping the district boards. I may say here that district boards have not enough money for doing all their works. At present all the district boards of Bengal suffer more or less from want of money. This year as regards the District Board of Pabna, we prepared a budget, but at the end of the year we found that we fell short by about Rs. 20,000. We had to ask the District Engineer to curtail the expenditure by that amount. That shows that there is not sufficient balance left in the hands of the district boards to pay interest and so it will serve no useful purpose to give them a loan. On the contrary, as was pointed out by the Hon'ble the Minister, the construction of drains in stagnant areas would serve admirably to improve agriculture as well as supply of pure drinking water; but this would require a vast amount of money which neither the district boards nor this Government is in a position to grant. For this purpose, we may have recourse to a big company with a capital of three or four crores, so that it may finance at the initial stage and it may realise the amount by instalments. The only thing necessary for that is that Government should come forward with a guarantee that it would pay 7 or 8 per cent. interest on the entire amount expended. Then private individuals may come forward to form a company in order to finance all these projects. Take, for instance, the case of the Nadia District Board. There was a scheme for improving the Bhairab and the estimated cost was about Rs. 16 lakhs. Years have passed away and yet it could not do anything for want of money. If there were a limited company able to lend Rs. 13 lakhs or Rs. 16 lakhs within a short time, with that sum the area could have been improved and the people benefited by that improvement would be in a position to pay the money. Of course, in the initial stage, the people cannot pay, but you would soon put enough money into the hands of the people by improving agriculture and by improving sanitation. Then you can expect the money back by instalments, say, in ten

or twelve years time. For this, I think, the activities of the Government need not be suspended. The Committee, if appointed, would work out a comprehensive scheme for the whole province.

Then again, the Hon'ble the Minister has said that he is prepared to lend Rs. 2 lakhs this year by way of reappropriation. What will it come to, if this sum is distributed among 26 districts? Only about Rs. 8,000 or so will go to a district. What help will that render to the district boards? There are, on an average, in a district some 6,000 villages and to provide each village with a tank or well would take about a century. These isolated acts would not be of much use. So, before we can spend our money, we must have a comprehensive scheme for the whole province and after that we can launch on a particular policy leaving the details to be worked out by district boards and other local authorities. We must have a scheme prepared by experts, such as, engineers, representatives of local bodies and other gentlemen who are best able to speak on the subject. With these words, I beg to submit that this resolution is a most harmless one and the Hon'ble the Minister himself, by his actions if not by his words, supported the view that there is a need for a committee which must be appointed to find out a comprehensive scheme for the whole province.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I beg to move that the question be now put. We have thoroughly discussed the questions.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** There are three aspects of the question, viz.—

(*1*) the appointment of a committee;

(*2*) sinking of tube-wells;

(*3*) setting apart a sum sufficient for water-supply.

I would ask Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy to reply to his portion.

Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, I see, is absent, so I call upon Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur to speak.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** I rise to a point of order.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I moved that the question be now put.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I am already in possession of the House.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I will put the motion for closure to the Council.

The Ayes being 68 and the Noes 5, the motion for closure was carried.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has handed over to me the modified form of his resolution. It runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to consider the question of sinking tube-wells and renovating, restoring and re-excavating tanks and of granting such loans or grants to local authorities for the purpose, as may be necessary and practicable."

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether by accepting this resolution he accepts the position that the Government should tackle the question of water-supply in rural areas?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Certainly not.

The motion in the above amended form was then put and agreed to.

The motions standing in the names of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghosh Bahadur's resolution was accepted in the following amended form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be allotted as grants or loans as the Government may think fit and practicable to the district boards during the next cold weather for the supply of drinking water in the villages."

**Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the two lakhs which he proposes to allot in grants or loans will be given to one district in Western Bengal and one district in Eastern Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** It would be allotted for the whole of Bengal.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's amendment No. 9 consequently fell through.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy's resolution was then put and lost.

## Staff Selection Board.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** In the absence of Mr. S. Mahboob Aley, with the permission of the Council, I move that this Council recommends to the Government that a staff selection board consisting of official and non-official members, in which there shall be a due proportion of Muhammadans, be appointed to receive applications from and

to select candidates for all appointments under the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

It may be argued that after the notification issued by Government introducing the system of competitive examinations for recruitment to some of the services, a resolution like this has lost much of its force. But I will submit to this Council that there are many services for which no system of competitive examination for the purpose of recruitment can be introduced nor has any such system been introduced for these services.

As regards the services for which is system of competitive examination has been or is going to be introduced, I shall point out to the Council that the rules are extremely defective and, if time permits, we shall discuss these rules in this Council and point out the defects with a view to their modification. I think there is a very strong case for the appointment of a staff selection board, as suggested in this resolution. I am not, in urging this matter upon the attention of the Council, adopting a sort of mendicant policy either for the Muhammadan community or for any of the minorities who form the inhabitants of this community. The question of appointments to the public services is always an important one for all the communities inhabiting this country; and it always bristles with difficulties. Various considerations have got to be taken into account; various conflicting claims have got to be considered; and for a Government like the British Government, various conflicting interests have not only to be considered, but justice and fairness and above all a due regard to the requirements for efficiency in the public services have got to be kept in view in filling up vacancies in the various services. Speaking on behalf of one of the communities, viz., the Muhammadan community, I think I can say, without fear of contradiction, that my community has not had a fair representation in the public services up to the present moment. An illustration of what usually happens was afforded by the answer given to a question put by Maulvi Rafi Uddin Ahmed regarding appointments in the Customs Department. In the reply it was pointed out that in that department there is at present one Muhammadan appraiser and the question was put as to whether there was any attempt made to secure qualified Muhammadans for the department; the answer was that suitable Muhammadan candidates were not forthcoming and that was the reason why there is one Muhammadan officer in that department. Two instances were pointed out in which the gentlemen who had been appointed could not claim to possess high University qualification and their appointment was defended on the ground that they possessed character and intelligence befitting them for the post of appraiser. Now, Sir, character and intelligence are terms which have various meanings and there cannot be any hard and fast rule laid down for testing character, and intelligence and, therefore, the appointments rest on the sweet will of the person making the appointments, to judge whether certain

candidates possess the necessary character or the requisite intelligence; or in other words, the person making the appointments can reject whomsoever he likes and can appoint whomsoever he chooses; and as a matter of fact he can be a kind of despot. For the exercise of this kind of despotism, Muhammadan candidates have suffered and suffer so much that in this department, viz., the Customs, there is only one Muhammadan. Can it be urged for one moment that for a century and a half that this department has been in existence no Muhammadan could be found possessing either the character, the intelligence or the educational qualification required for the discharge of the duties in the Custom? I say that Muhammadans have not been appointed because of the whims or caprices of those who made the appointments, and as there was no authority to urge the claims of Muhammadans, these gentlemen went on giving appointments to whomsoever they liked and rejected whomsoever they chose, without any protest from any quarter. I submit that this is the way in which Muhammadan claims have been overlooked. I therefore urge that a committee consisting of official and non-official members should be appointed to receive applications from and select candidates, and if there is any injustice done, it will be in the power of the committee to have the wrong righted. There are various departments under the Government of Bengal in which the posts or at any rate the ministerial posts will not be thrown open to competition. It is very necessary that there should be some check on the whims and caprices of those who make the appointments. It is no good saying that qualified Muhammadans are not forthcoming. I am not one of these—and I do not think that there is a single Muhammadan member in this Council—who will urge that Muhammadans who are not qualified should ever be given posts in the public services. Let some minimum qualifications be put and as soon as Muhammadans possessing these qualifications are forthcoming, they should at once be given appointments in order to afford a chance to the members of this community to qualify themselves for the public service. Perhaps the Government member will say that there is no lack of effort on the part of the Government. It is with great regret we say that although there has been no lack of good intentions on the part of the Government, there has certainly been lack of genuine effort. There have been circulars after circulars issued and these circulars are now to be found in the dusty shelves of the Secretariat. They are honoured more in their breach than in their observance. The circulars regarding the appointment of Muhammadans in the public departments have been a dead letter. It is only the Secretariat appointments which are very much in the public eye and there the Muhammadan claims are somewhat considered. There are hundreds of other department under the Government in the public services where vacancies occur and where the Muhammadans have not a ghost of a chance; and these appointments never see the light of day, because no opportunity is given to anybody to ventilate it

in public. We have not got a press and we have not got any power to force the Government to consider our claims. It therefore always depends on the sweet will of the person who makes the appointments. For a particular candidate, the person making the selection may have a dislike and as soon as an opportunity occurs, he comes forward with the plea that the candidate does not come up to the standard of necessary qualifications. By all means lay down the necessary qualifications and as soon as those qualifications are found in the candidate, I say that minorities as well as backward communities such as the Muhammadans should be given their due share in the public appointments. I am not going to accept the plea that qualified Muhammadan candidates are not forthcoming. Sitting in my office from six in the morning till midnight, I come across hundreds of young men who possessing the requisite qualifications are not successful in getting any appointments. I have been often told how their claims have been systematically ignored in almost all the branches. It is no use telling us that circulars have been issued, but as I have already said, these circulars are honoured more in their breach than in their observance. I will now bring my remarks to a close; but I like to hear what the Government Member has to say and then I will submit what I have got further to say by way of reply. With these remarks, I commend my resolutions to the acceptance of the House.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** It is not at all pleasant for me to say anything which might be construed as going against the interests of the Muhammadans; but this resolution before you is one which takes a man's breath away. The mover asks to do away with competitive examination. Is that the way in which we are to conduct business here? We had passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority, I may say almost by the unanimous vote of this Council and Government have already taken action upon it. Now against that, Sir, what is this that every appointment at the disposal of the Government of Bengal should be made by a committee? Should the head of the department have no voice in the matter? Is this the way in which the business should be conducted? Favouritism has ruined my fellow-countrymen—the Muhammadans. I know that as a matter of fact 20 years ago the Bar was strongly represented by the Muhammadan community and my friend, Maulvi Sirajul Islam, and other Muhammadan lawyers were the shining lights who held their own against the best Hindu pleaders. But now what do we find? On account of the backstairs influence there are only two or three men in the Bar. It is not necessary to say any thing further.

**Mr. H. BARTON:** I feel I must very strongly oppose any measure which has for its object the intrusion of any committee on the rights of the heads of departments to make their choice in filling up appointments in the way which has been suggested in this resolution. I do not think it is

right that in any matters relating to appointments apprehensions of this sort should arise on racial lines. I do not think it can be proved that heads of departments draw any particular distinctive lines as between various communities. Departmental heads must have for their various works those who are best qualified for the appointments; there are various ways and means which the qualifications of candidates are tested and I do think that the discretion should be left entirely to the heads of departments to select and appoint those who suit their purpose best.

I am also opposed to the intention in this resolution of claiming protective rights for Muhammadans. I have nothing against Muhammadans, but it would appear that whatever else is done in the matter of appointments, the rights of the Muhammadans shall be first protected. I question the right of any community whether Hindu or Muhammadan or Anglo-Indian or any other in a matter of this kind, to claim special protection for its members. I think that this matter should be left entirely to the heads of departments and there should be strong objection to allowing any particular community to intrude upon the rights of departmental heads.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I have to oppose this resolution, and I shall do it by illustration. I come from a part of the country where the population is two-thirds Mussalman and one-third Hindu. The respectabe Muhammadan community have of late improved a good deal as regards their English education, and they are very much in evidence; yet at the same time when the question of selection to an office bearer's position in any local body is concerned, the principle that regulates their conduct is the numerical strength of the people, and not their ability, their honesty or their integrity. If this is underlying the principle of this resolution, the less said about it the better, and we should not in any way tie the hands of the Executive. I remember in the beginning of this Council the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan said that for the difficult task of administration we require the best brains and these brains have got to be imported, if necessary, from abroad. If that was a necessity, is it not also a necessity to have the best materials from amongst ourselves? What is the good of ear-marking this particular community or that for any particular appointment? For some years now we have seen a sort of idea getting abroad—I do not know whether it has got any real foundation or not—that the more you can put into the head of Government that a particular community should have preferential treatment, the better for that community.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I never suggested it.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I did not mention your name. I say in addresses coming from particular communities, not only Muhammadans, but others as well, they always try to press their communal interest; it is bad for the whole country that communal interest is pressed in season and out of season. We should be one community instead of

so many different castes and creeds. I do not think my friend, the present mover of the resolution, who is considered to be a leader of the people will go so far as to say that he believes in this sort of communal representation or partial or preferential treatment of a particular community; the basis of his argument seems to be that among Muhammadans there is no dearth of men of real merit. Certainly there are a large number of Muhammadans of real merit, but it will be indirectly putting the thin end of the wedge into the general principle which has been accepted by Government that the selection for the higher posts should be by competitive examination only, and as it will affect the principle of competitive examinations, on general grounds, I think this matter of communal representation should not be brought in, in an indirect way. Another thing is that if you give somehow or other a semblance of communal representation to a particular community in any matter, you will find the members of that community will try to extend that system in all matters. Therefore, I urge upon this Council, and particularly the community which comes in for discussion in this particular resolution, that this matter should not be pressed; Government can always protect the rights of particular communities, and they have been doing so. Nothing prevented Government from appointing two Muhammadan Councillors to some Government billets last year, though it cannot be affected that there were not better candidates among other communities. Is it to cudgel Government to be more indulgent that the subject under discussion is mooted?

So, I oppose this resolution as it stands.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** The resolution which has been put forward by the learned mover demands consideration. It pains me that this resolution involves a question of racial interests; that should be avoided in the Council Chamber and I say with all humility to the learned Maulvi that he should withdraw this resolution. It is a question which, if pressed, will rise bitter controversy among several communities, and, therefore, my respectful submission to him is that he should withdraw the resolution.

**Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK:** Speaking on behalf of the backward classes, in general and of the Namasudra community in particular, I feel inclined to endorse some of the grievances that have been enumerated by the mover. I shall give only one example to show that the present system of recruitment to the various services of Government is not at all satisfactory. Last year there were about 20 candidates for the post of sub-registrars from the Namasudra community alone, and most of those candidates were graduates. None of them, however, was given an appointment. I hope it will not be contended, even by the great champion of Chittagong, that a graduate is not qualified for a sub-registrarship.

The resolution under discussion has been objected to on another ground, namely, the ground of communal interests. It has been said

that communal interest should not be brought before the Council. But it is forgotten that as individuals make up a community, so communities make up the population of the provinces and as such the interests of the province simply mean the interests of the various communities taken in their entirely and combination. I, therefore, do not understand that kind of proposition, which endeavours to serve the interests of the province, and at the same time neglect the interests of the different communities of which the province is composed.

One outstanding factor in the constitution of the people of Bengal should always be borne in mind. That factor is this: out of the 46 millions of the people of Bengal, Muhammadans form 52 per cent., their backward classes being no less than ten millions strong form about 25 per cent. Therefore the Muhammadans and the backward classes taken together form about three-fourths of the entire population of Bengal. How can one expect to serve the best interests of a province and at the same time ignore the interests of three-fourths of its population. I do not understand.

I regret to remark that it is only a limited class, standing to gain at the cost of the best interests of the province, that always talks of competitive examination; but if we analyse this contention closely in the light of the foregoing resolution we shall find that there is something very rotten behind it.

My submission now is this: A selection board has been formed and let us see how it works. If it does not work satisfactorily it will be time then to bring forward a resolution of this character. I, therefore, think that the resolution is to some extent premature.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I am extremely sorry that a resolution like this has been brought forward by my respected friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, that we should have communal representation in public services and elsewhere. I have no intention of giving offence to my friends here or outside, and I request my friend sincerely to withdraw the resolution, or not to press for any decision of this Council on this matter. It is a matter in which we should be very, very careful; degeneration in public offices should be guarded against. It is not because certain communities preponderate in population, therefore all public offices should be divided in that proportion. Education and character ought to be given special preference. If my friend had asked that in every appointment, whether it be made by the district authorities or headquarters, a competitive test should be held of the candidates, and whatever the caste, creed or colour of them be, only merit should be given preference to, that would have been rather intelligible.

In Bengal there are 52 per cent. Muhammadans. My friend, Mr. Nirode Behary Mullick, says that the Namasudras are also in large numbers in the province, but the fact is quite patent that out of the 52 per cent. Muhammadans in Bengal, very few are literate. The criterion should not be whether the Muhammadan is qualified or not, but he should

be given preference if he stands first in qualifications and other things; that ought to be our guiding principle. In my district of Rajshahi there are, I believe, 85 per cent. Muhammadans; on a certain occasion when it was decided that Muhammadan friends should be given preference on the municipal board for Chairmanship, a certain gentleman was selected, but very soon he had to resign. In the district board we had to import a gentleman from another district, fortunately my friend, Khan Bahadur Emaduddin Ahmed came there. There seems to be a tendency here and there, nowadays, to think of communal representation. We should be Indians first, or Bengalis first and then Hindu or Muhammadan; it should be our special endeavour that merit should be given preference to anything else. Because certain persons came from a zamindar family, he should get preference, or because he is a Muhammadan, he should get preference, is not the correct idea. It will be a mistaken policy and we should not proceed on that. It is high time that this growing tendency should be contradicted, and the leaders of the Muhammadan community should not come here to fight over it. We should try to be friendly and to act in concert and not to quarrel over these matters. We should not be playthings in the hands of our enemy. We should go hand in hand. Let our best sons, whether Hindu or Muhammadan or Namasudra, get the best appointments in the public services. If there are Muhammadan boys who have been educated, and if they are in hundreds, there are Hindus and others in thousands; let the national aim be to strive to direct the energies of these young men to other directions and not to quarrel about particular appointments. We should not say that because Hindus preponderate in education, therefore, every appointment should be given to them. That is not my contention; let the best man get it. During the partition days this was given prominence by Government to a certain extent, and they are to blame for that, but let some appointments be reserved for the backward community. We should not quarrel over these things, but should act in a friendly manner and send our boys to be trained in other technical directions—Agriculture or other industries. Let them prosper in some other way, let them not be enemies over these petty things.

With these remarks, I would request the mover to withdraw his resolution.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** I fully support the resolution which has been moved by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq. I think there is a good deal of misapprehension in the minds of our Hindu friends regarding the actual meaning of this resolution. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has said that Muhammadans were very fond of favouritism, and that is the cause of their present downfall. Of course, when such a broad statement is made, it is very difficult to reply to such a statement in so short a time; after all we find that in spite of this the Muhammadans are advancing in education and in all matters by leaps and bounds. In spite of that fact the Muhammadans are not lagging behind.

Mr. Barton has said that this Council should not interfere with the discretion which the heads of the departments will have to exercise in the selection of their own officers. Certainly discretion must not be exercised, but this Council simply wants to lay down a certain principle which should be kept in view by the heads of the departments in the exercise of that discretion. This discretion must be exercised, no duobt, but while exercising that discretion certain principles should be followed. To me it seems that this resolution intends to have a selection board so that there may be a sufficient number of Muhammadan candidates selected for competitive examinations, where appointments will be made by competitive examination, and also to cover cases in which appointments will be made either by nomination or by some other method. Now, Sir, in the last I. C. S. selection board, a Muhammadan was taken in to see that a certain proportion of Muhammadans do get an opportunity of sitting at the I. C. S. examination. Everyone knows that the Muhammadans have got to labour under special difficulties in the matter of education. In fact, with regard to most of them, it is the first generation. Therefore, you might find many advantages under which a Hindu candidate or a Hindu student might have received his education, but take the case of a Muhammadan student who has received his education under special difficulties; consider the merits, but the merits must be considered of the individual candidate; one has received education under very favourable circumstances and the other under most disadvantages circumstances; that might account for the difference in the list of successful candidates of the University. But as regards the inherent merits, it might be that one candidate is far superior to the other. These are the facts which the Muhammadan member of the selection board will be able to point to the other members of the board, so that the merits of the individual candidates can be considered. It may be said that the members of the board, even if not Muhammadans, can consider these things, but it may be said that those gentlemen who are not Muhammadans, who are not specially acquainted with the special difficulties of the Muhammadan candidates will not be able to place the special difficulties of the Muhammadan candidates before the board, and what the resolution wants is that there should be a sufficient number of Muhammadans on the selection board who would point out the difficulties and disadvantages, the merits of particular candidates, so that the board may as a whole consider the respective merits of the candidates. In the absence of any such member, injustice may be done to several candidates, I do not say intentionally, but on account of ignorance of the state of affairs; so what the resolution aims at is that in these matters where the appointment will be made by direct competition, a selection board will have to be formed, and on that board there ought to be a due proportion of Muhammadan members who will see that a sufficient number of Muhammadans are sent up for the competitive examination. In the circular of the Government there is also a clause that if any

particular community is not sufficiently represented, that will be taken into consideration. So, Sir, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur's apprehension that the object of the resolution is to do away with the competitive examination is not founded on fact. It does not want to do away with the competitive examination at all. Let there be a competitive examination but let there be a selection board where there should be a sufficient number of Muhammadans who will see that a sufficient number of Muhammadans are sent up for that examination.

As regards the other appointments which are to be made by nomination, there are certain difficulties, and my friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has pointed them out. It is a matter of common knowledge, especially in West Bengal, that in many districts, as far as the appointment of ministerial officers are concerned, there are very few Muhammadans. What is the reason? Of course, clerks in the munsif's or sub-judge's courts, or in the collectorate can be had from the Muhammadan community. Of course there might have been a time when a sufficient number of Muhammadans was not available, but I think we have now got a sufficient number who can discharge the duties of these ministerial officers. There are various ways to give effect to, or rather to remove this particular grievance of the Muhammadan community. In many circulars issued by Government it was distinctly said that while making appointments of ministerial officers, the District Magistrate should see that at least one-third of the total number were taken from that particular community. The difficulty is about information; in most cases the Muhammadan candidates do not get information; in fact, there are many instances in which it has been found that there are a large number of Muhammadan candidates and these cannot avail themselves of the opportunity, on account of the ignorance of the vacancy. Such things are not uncommon. There are particular communities who have got special facilities for getting information on account of the fact that members of those communities are already holding appointments in those offices, and can inform their friends and relations. There is no intention to encroach upon the rights of Hindu friends. There is no intention to curtail the rights of any particular community, but in justice and equity where there are suitable Muhammadan candidates who can equally discharge the duties of these offices, these Muhammadans should be given special facilities for this particular purpose. It may be said that these ministerial officers may be appointed by competitive examination in which Muhammadans will be represented, and the best Muhammadans will be taken. It is not the object of the present resolution to encroach upon the rights of other communities, but simply to give the Muhammadans their legitimate share. It is often said that appointments in public services should not be based on other considerations except that of merit. But it is very difficult to define merit. A man may be a first class M.A. but he may be all the same worthless so far as his administrative ability is concerned. He may be a good philosopher or a good professor, but

may not be a good Deputy Magistrate or a good Judicial Officer. Merit does not always count University qualifications. There may be a Muhammadan graduate who may not be a first class mathematician or a philosopher but his common-sense, his sharpness of intellect and other circumstances may especially fit him for the post and, therefore, there should be a special selection board who would consider all these things and if it is found in a particular case that, apart from University qualifications, there are other things necessary, then that particular selection board will consider those individual cases. So the resolution does not in any way want to do away with competitive examinations or to curtail the rights of my Hindu friends. What the resolution wants is this: That you take the best Muhammadans, you have given them opportunities of having a larger share in the administration of the country. You have agreed to give us due share in the deliberation of this Council by giving us a certain number of seats, you have given us this responsible position, you have allowed us to take part in the deliberations which result in legislation of this particular province. Certainly, the Muhammadans can fairly demand, without in any way trying to impair or curtail the rights of other communities, a right to have also some share in the administration of our own country. That is not, I think, an unfair demand. But what is the due proportion which should be given and how much should be given is a matter which should be left to the heads of departments concerned. With these few remarks I fully support the resolution moved by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq.

**Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** I do feel that in the matter of getting appointments, the Muhammadans do not get that opportunity which they should get. This is one of my firmest convictions and I am for giving them such facilities as would at least give them equal opportunities having equal qualifications to aspire to different posts under the Government or in public bodies. This is all that I have got to say.

**Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** This resolution, when I read it for the first time,—

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I might remind the member that he got only five minutes within which he is to finish his speech.

**Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** This resolution, when I read it for the first time, did not in any way give rise to my mind that it was intended as a step towards what is called communal representation in public services. As regards the Muhammadan employment in the public services, there cannot be two opinions that there should be an adequate number of competent Muhammadans in Government service. But, Sir, I am rather surprised with the form of the resolution, though the speeches show that it is intended to secure an adequate number of Muhammadans in public services. This resolution is so framed as to

take away practically all the responsibility from Government and to vest it in the selection board in the matter of all appointments. That is a retrograde step. The Council can only lay down a general principle and I think the Council have laid down, not only during the time when the reformed Council came into existence but before the present Council was inaugurated, that suitable candidates should be selected after competition in all appointments as far as practicable. And in this Council, after the reformed scheme, came into being, resolutions to that effect had been moved and had been supported not only by the Hindu members but also by Muhammadan members. I consider this resolution to be a retrograde step as going backward from the resolutions passed from time to time by this Legislative Council. Much has been said in the speech of Mr. Syed Nasim Ali which I have followed with great interest. He adheres to the principal of competition for selecting suitable candidates, but I fail to understand that, although by competition a suitable candidate, wherever possible, can be selected, he holds that irrespective of the merit or the eligibility of the candidates due weight should be given as regards the nationality of the candidate. Well, Sir, I think if in the selection of a candidate for any particular post, there is a Hindu element predominating in a particular department, surely Government will duly consider the claims of equally fit Muhammadan candidates. Surely my friend does not mean to say that in the case of a matriculated Muhammadan, as compared with that of a distinguished non-Muhammadan candidate who is far superior to him, that the Government at the sacrifice of efficiency should select the inferior candidate on the ground of nationality. I think the proposed selection board will greatly hamper the Government, will prejudice the services and will prejudice the interests of my Muhammadan friends. As it at present stands, I believe our Muhammadan friends, who are making rapid progress in the van of education, will get, as they are gradually getting, larger share in the services and in the patronage of Government. It is no use emphasising that we sympathise with the Muhammadan friends when we say that we do want them to take a larger share in the administration and in the public services of the country. But at the same time we wish that they should befit themselves properly to take their proper place. I repeat, this resolution, if it is passed, will be a retrograde step. Further, Government will no longer be responsible for the efficiency of the public services and the whole blame will fall on the selection board. If the standard fails, the selection board and the Legislative Council will be blamed and we shall have no right to call the Government in question if anything goes wrong. I therefore think this resolution should not be accepted.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Friday, the 25th August, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 25th August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 96 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Cost of construction of Kidderpore Bridge.

***XXXIV. Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI:** With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. XVIII on the 3rd July, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state the probable difference in the amount of costs likely to be incurred in the construction of the Kidderpore Bridge if the contractors are paid for steel, etc.—

(*i*) at the rate prevailing in the market at the present time; and

(*ii*) at the tendered rate?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*i*) Rupees 5,70,000.

(*ii*) Rupees 7,22,887.

### Members of Council as non-official visitors of Jails.

***XXXV. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken to give effect to the amendment of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, Kt., carried during the last winter session of the Bengal Legislative Council, to the resolution regarding the appointment of members of the Legislative Council as *ex-officio* visitors of the jails located in their respective constituencies?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** The member is referred to the answer to starred question No. LXII on this subject put by Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur at the meeting of the 10th July, 1922.

**Superintendents of Jails and sub-Jails.**

***XXXVI. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Civil Surgeon of a district is almost always the Superintendent of the district jail; and

(*ii*) whether the Assistant Surgeon in charge of a subdivision is generally not the Superintendent of the subsidiary jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what is the reason for this differentiation?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) In the case of a subsidiary jail the Assistant or Sub-Assistant Surgeon at the subdivisional headquarters is, if qualified, appointed Deputy Superintendent of the Jail. If he is an Assistant Surgeon, he receives an allowance of Rs. 20 for this duty, if a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, of Rs. 10. The Subdivisional Officer is *ex-officio* Superintendent of the subsidiary jail but the post carries with it no remuneration. The system works satisfactorily and the Indian Jails Committee saw no reason to recommend any change in it.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** Do I understand from the Hon'ble Member's reply that in order to help the Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons pecuniarily this differentiation is being maintained by Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The arrangement is, as the hon'ble member says, that if the Assistant or Sub-Assistant Surgeons are placed in charge of jails, they get no allowance.

**Plans for development of Industries in Bengal.**

***XXXVII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the Superintendents of Industries have submitted their plans for the development of Industries of this Presidency?

(*b*) If so, what are those plans?

(*c*) How far has action been taken on those plans?

(*d*) When do the Government expect to translate all the recommendations into action?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) The Superintendents of Industries from time to time make suggestions for the development of industries in their respective jurisdictions.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) It is not possible to give a list of all the suggestions made. These are considered by the Director of Industries as they are received, and action is taken on such of them as are considered practical.

## Newspapers publishing sale notifications.

***XXXVIII. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the newspapers in this Presidency in which sale notifications are published under orders of the Civil Courts; and

(*ii*) the number of subscribers for each of those papers?

(*b*) Is such publication optional on the part of the decree-holders or is it compulsory?

(*c*) Is it correct that in spite of such publications there are cases in which the sales have been set aside on the ground of want of notice to the judgment-debtors?

(*d*) Is it correct that at Chittagong the publication of sale notification is now made in a newspaper which has been started only recently although formerly they used to be published in another newspaper?

(*e*) If so, what is the cause for the change?

(*f*) Which of the two newspapers has the larger circulation in the district and elsewhere?

(*g*) Is it a fact that several mufassal Bar Associations protested against the orders of the District Judge on the ground that the newly-started newspaper had very little circulation for other reasons?

(*h*) Is it a fact that several munsifs also made similar reports?

(*i*) Is any subsidy being paid by the Government to this newspaper?

(*j*) If so, what is the amount and for what reason is it paid?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The matter of publication of sale notices is within the discretion of the Court, under orders XXI, rule 67 (*b*) of the Civil Procedure Code (see rule 100 (*c*), page 36, Chapter I, General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court).

(*c*) and (*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) The matter being left by law to the discretion of the Court, the Government does not think it desirable to investigate the reasons for the exercise of its discretion.

(*f*) The older newspaper.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) No. One munsif of an outlying station informed the District Judge that he saw no advantage in publishing sale proclamations of his munsifi in the *Suniti* or all in the *Jyoti*.

(*i*) No.

(*j*) The question does not arise.

*Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. XXXVIII (a) (i) and (ii).*

| District with names of newspapers in which sale notifications are published. | Number of subscribers. |
|---|---|
| Faridpur District— | |
| The Sonjoy | 1,104 |
| The Faridpur Hitaishi | 2,828 |
| Bankura District— | |
| Bankura Darpan | 500 |
| Noakhali District— | |
| Noakhali Sanmilani | Not known |
| Khulna District— | |
| Khulna | 497 |
| Khulna Bashi | 800 |
| Jagaran | 800 |
| Tippera District— | |
| Tripura Hitaishi (Comilla) | 800 |
| Praja Bandhu (Brahmanbaria) | 200 |
| Naba Banga (Chandpur) | 465 |
| Nadia District— | |
| Bangaratna | 769 |
| Bartabaha | 375 |
| Jagaran | 387 |
| Bakarganj District— | |
| Kashipur Nibashi | 633 |
| Birbhum District— | |
| Birbhum Bashi | 405 |
| Rahr Dwipika | 480 |
| Birbhum Barsi | 500 |

| District with names of newspapers in which sale notifications are published. | Number of subscribers. |
|---|---|
| **Hooghly District—** | |
| Chinsurah Bartabaha | 1,100 |
| Biswadut | 1,600 |
| **Rajshahi District—** | |
| Hindu Ranjika | 600 |
| Presidency Gazette | 414 |
| Malda Samachar | 189 |
| **Pabna and Bogra Districts—** | |
| The Pabna-Bogra Hitaishi | 1,100 |
| Suraj | 1,200 |
| **Jessore District—** | |
| Jashohar | 2,000 |
| Pallibarta | 999 |
| Ananda Patrika | 1,177 |
| **Mymensingh District—** | |
| Charu Mihir | 1,500 |
| **Murshidabad District—** | |
| Murshidabad Hitaishi | 557 |
| Jangipur Sanbad | 507 |
| **Burdwan District—** | |
| Burdwan Sanjibani | 650 |
| Pallibashi (Kalna) | 500 |
| Prasun (Katwa) | 400 |
| Ratnakar (Asansol) | 187 |
| **Dinajpur District—** | |
| One paper (name not known) | 632 |
| **Dacca District—** | |
| Dacca Prakash | 1,521 |
| **Rangpur District—** | |
| Rangpur Darpan | 709 |
| **24-Parganas District—** | |
| 24-Parganas Bartabaha | 1,800 |
| **Midnapur District—** | |
| Midnapur Hitaishi | 3,524 |
| Hijli Hitaishi | 425 |
| **Chittagong District—** | |
| Suniti | 919 |

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask the Hon'ble Member as to what is the source of information from which the number of subscribers have been found?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I obtained it from the District Officers.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I know if the District Officers made any inquiry into the correctness of the number?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I cannot reply off-hand.

**Publication of inspection notes of non-official visitors of jails.**

***XXXIX. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that the extracts from the inspection notes of a non-official visitor to the Dacca Jail have been recently issued to the press by the Publicity Officer, Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the inspection notes of the visitors of Jails are for the use of persons other than the Jail authorities and intended for publication?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether a uniform practice is followed in this regard in the Alipore Central and the Dacca Jails?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative, but Government have a discretionary right to publish them if they think fit.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** As regards the answer (*b*), may I ask what are the occasions when Government thinks it fit to publish these reports?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The occasions are those on which they are published.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Are they in favour of Government or against it?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I have no opinion to offer on this point.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to explain whether answer (*b*) means that Government have a discretionary right to publish such inspection notes as applaud the jail authorities and withhold those which criticise them?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I have nothing more to add to my reply.

### Supply of drinking water to court buildings in Chittagong.

***XL. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the court buildings at Chittagong are situated on a hill with no supply for drinking water?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of having a filtered water connection to these court buildings? If so, when?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) A filtered water connection with a tap has been provided at the main entrance to the building, but it is understood that the supply is not available from 10 A.M. to 3-30 P.M.

(*b*) Government are making inquiries whether water cannot be stored in a reservoir in the morning so as to have water available during court hours; but until the Municipality can give a continuous supply instead of an intermittent one, there will be shortage of water.

### Famine Relief Fund.

***XLI. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state what famine relief work has been done with the money budgeted for the year 1921-22?

(*b*) If money has been spent, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how much has been spent and on what work it has been spent?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that under the Devolution Rules the unspent balances are to be transferred to the famine relief fund of the next year?

(*d*) Where, in the Budget of 1922-23, has the unspent balance for the previous year been shown?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*) No part of the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs provided for in the budget for 1921-22 for expenditure on the relief of, and insurance against, famine was required.

(*b*) In view of reply to (*a*) this requires no answer.

(*c*) In accordance with rule 3 in Schedule IV to the Devolution Rules, any unspent balance of the grant under "Famine Relief" is transferred to the famine insurance fund of the province.

(*d*) Under the rules, though an account is kept of the fund, the unspent balances are not shown in the next year's budget under any

specific major head but merged in the general balances and are allowed to accumulate till the total of the fund amounts to a sum not less than six times the annual assignment, when the local Government may suspend temporarily the annual assignment.

## Unstarred Questions

### (answers to which were laid on the table).

### Development of communication in the district of Pabna.

**140. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works been drawn to the urgent necessity for the development of communication by road and by railway in the district of Pabna?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the development of this district is being hampered owing to the lack of the means of communication?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme of railway or construction of new roads are likely to be taken up in the near future?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) and (*b*) The development of road communications in the Pabna district is a matter which primarily concerns local bodies. Government have no information in regard to the urgent necessity for constructing new roads.

Government are aware that the construction of railways in the district would be likely to accelerate the development of the area.

(*c*) Government have no information regarding the construction of new roads. The question of the construction of a railway from Ishurdi to Sadhuganj is under the consideration of the Government of India (Railway Board). The Board have intimated that the wishes of the Government of Bengal will be borne in mind with a view to giving the project favourable consideration should the opportunity arise.

### Pabna Agricultural farm.

**141. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to give information regarding the Agricultural farm at Pabna under the following heads:—

(*i*) Area of land acquired for the farm;

(*ii*) Land Acquisition charge for the farm;

(*iii*) Expenditure incurred for—

(*a*) constructing buildings, etc.;

(*b*) excavation of tanks;

(*iv*) Annual expenditure incurred during the last official year on—

(*a*) staff of the farm;

(*b*) experimental purpose; and

(*v*) Grants and receipts from the produce of the farm during the last official year?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*i*) Twenty-one acres.

(*ii*) Rupees 13,961.

(*iii*) (*a*) Rupees 24,084; (*b*) Rupees 1,117.

(*iv*) (*a*) Rupees 103-3-7; (*b*) Rupees 4,609-15-6.

(*v*) Government grant—Rs. 5,565; Annual contribution from the District Board—Rs. 1,000; Receipts from the produce—Rs. 2,295-4-9 last year. This was the first year's working and only about five acres were brought under cultivation as the buildings were not completed.

### Cows as plough cattle.

**142. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in some districts, specially in Chittagong and Noakhali, cows are used by villagers for ploughing their lands?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of putting an end to this practice by legislation or otherwise?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

### Removal of restrictions on the export of rice.

**143. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether the local Government was consulted by the Government of India prior to their decision in regard to the removal of restrictions on the export of rice in March last?

(*b*) If so, what was the opinion that was expressed by this Government about the advisability of such a step?

(*c*) With reference to the answer given on the 10th July, 1922, to clause (*c*) of my unstarred question No. 140, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how the "fact that its price militates against Bengal rice being in great demand in the world's markets" has helped the Government in coming to the conclusion that the "existing supplies in Bengal are adequate?"

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, since 1918—

(*i*) the amount of the total production of rice in Bengal;

(*ii*) its export outside the province; and

(*iii*) import of rice into the province from outside?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The local Government are not prepared to disclose the contents of the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

(*c*) The fact that high prices were prevailing locally must obviously tend to reduce the foreign demand and to retain supplies on the Bengal market.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (d) of unstarred question No. 143.*

(*i*) Production of rice in Bengal.

| | Tons. |
|---|---|
| 1917-18 ... ... ... | 8,648,000 |
| 1918-19 ... ... ... | 6,901,000 |
| 1919-20 ... ... ... | 8,254,000 |
| 1920-21 ... ... ... | 8,219,000 |
| 1921-22 ... ... ... | 9,298,000 |

(*ii*) Exports of rice* from Bengal

| | EXPORTS BY SEA. | | Exports by Rail and River. | Exports to frontier countries. | Total exports from Bengal. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Foreign. | Coasting. | | | |
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| 1917-18 ... ... | 71,421 | 3,063 | 285,502 | 1,088 | 361,074 |
| 1918-19 ... ... | 153,378 | 45,570 | 676,449 | 889 | 876,286 |
| 1919-20 ... ... | 48,123 | 36,817 | 605,866 | 1,010 | 691,816 |
| 1920-21 ... ... | 10,502 | 31,456 | 345,200 | 914 | 388,072 |
| 1921-22 ... ... | 11,711 | 148,333 | 396,148† | 948 | 557,140 |

* Includes paddy converted into rice.

† Excludes figures of rice exported from Bengal during the quarter ended the 31st March, 1922, by Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Great Indian Peninsula, Nizam's Guaranteed State, Madras and Southern Mahratta, Jodhpur-Bikaner, South India and Mysore Railways as the returns from the Government Examiner of Accounts, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway in whose office the returns of the abovementioned railways are consolidated, have not yet been received.

(*iii*) Imports of rice* into Bengal.

| | IMPORTS BY SEA. | | Imports by Rail and River. | Imports from frontier countries. | Total Imports. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Foreign. | Coasting. | | | |
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| 1917-18 ... ... | 189 | 296,326 | 111,195 | 32 | 407,742 |
| 1918-19 ... ... | 58 | 223,443 | 94,129 | 35 | 317,665 |
| 1919-20 ... ... | 59 | 522,339 | 98,767 | 37 | 621,202 |
| 1920-21 ... ... | 41 | 294,635 | 89,452 | 24 | 384,152 |
| 1921-22 ... ... | 47 | 198,659 | 75,083 | 10 | 273,799 |

* Includes paddy converted into rice.

## Reorganisation of the Co-operative Department.

**144. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** (*a*) With reference to the unstarred question No. 163 asked by Maulvi Mahammed Madassur Hussain on the 21st February, 1922, and to the answers given thereto, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) to what stage the details of the scheme for the reorganisation, which, as were given to be understood, were, at the time, under consideration, have developed and advanced; and

(*ii*) when the scheme is likely to mature and be given effect to?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble the Minister, as President of the eleventh Co-operative Conference, was pleased to state that in spite of the difficulties of the Bengal finance the pressing question of the revision of the pay of the Inspectors and Auditors could hardly be postponed any longer?

(*c*) If so, why has the scheme of revision and reorganisation been held in abeyance?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*c*) The details of the scheme have been worked out, but in view of the appointment of the Retrenchment Committee it has been decided to hold the question of revising the pay and prospects of the Inspectors of Co-operative Societies in abeyance pending their report. Meanwhile, however, it is proposed, subject to the vote of the Council, to raise the pay of the auditors from Rs. 75 a month

to Rs. 75—3—150 a month with effect from 1st September, 1922. The cost on account of the majority of the auditing staff will be recouped from the audit fees realised from the societies under the Co-operative Societies Act.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

### Pabna incident.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I have your permission to ask a new question with regard to a serious matter? With regard to the official *communiqué* that was issued this morning on the report of the District Magistrate of Pabna, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if there were any "killed" on that occasion, and what is their number?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** No casualties have been reported to Government as yet, and they have no further information than what was given in the *communiqué*.

### Resolutions

### (under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

The discussion on the resolution moved by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq on the appointment of a staff selection board was resumed.

### Staff Selection Board.

**Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** The resolution so ably taken up, moved and elaborated by my friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, stands in the name of Mr. S. Mahboob Aley. We do not know what was at the back of the mind of Mr. Aley. Many of us seem to have lost sight of this fact. I commend the efforts of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq to safeguard and advance the interests of the Muhammadan community. In connection with all the Muhammadan members of the Council, I support him and support every endeavour to advance and safeguard effectively the interests of my Muhammadan brethren. I am afraid, however, I cannot agree to do so to the detriment of the interests of other communities. So much of communal matter has unfortunately been imported in the course of the debate on an apparently harmless resolution standing in the name of Mr. S. Mahboob Aley that alarm and misgivings have been caused in the minds of our Hindu colleagues in this House. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur apprehends that the Muhammadan members want to lay the axe at the very root of the system of competitive examination. There are other members who have sounded a note of alarm and

said that perhaps the Mussalmans are trying to get the interests of their community not only safeguarded but forwarded to the detriment of the interests of others. I do not think the Moslem members want to do that, nor do I think that it is the intention of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq either. We do not want to create bad blood in the Council. We have got to work smoothly in friendship and harmony, and not to wrangle over doubtful communal questions. I do not think we should introduce an element of discord among our colleagues and I trust Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq will drop the discordant element from the resolution.

We find that in the competitive examination which is to be held for entry into the executive, police, excise and other gazetted services, a selection committee has already been appointed by Government as suggested and asked for in the resolution. Government have appointed the committee with an eye to safeguard the interests of various communities. This committee is composed of a well-balanced number of officials and non-officials. There is a Muhammadan member, a Hindu member, and a member from the depressed class. There are other committees, for example for the provincial and Indian Educational services.

Now about the ministerial services. This resolution perhaps wants to have a selection board also for ministerial appointments. I think we should not be obsessed with the idea of having a selection board for anything and everything. We have got enough to go on with. At present the Finance Department is watching the interests of the Muhammadans with regard to ministerial appointments. The provision in the Finance Department rules is quite generous. I think, for the present, the matter should be left with the heads of the departments concerned. Perhaps communal interests will be better served and safeguarded in this way, than if we rush matters and had a selection board for every appointment from a *chaprassi* to a deputy magistrate.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** I rise to oppose the resolution and I desire to do so on two grounds. First, because of its implication—the obvious implication—that the heads of departments do not discharge their duties properly. I am not prepared to accept that statement without sufficient data. The second implication is that the claims of our Muhammadan brethren in the matter of Government appointments are ignored. Where is the justification of making such a statement? In to-day's *Amrita Bazar Patrika* I see an advertisement headed "Government of Bengal—Finance Department—Notice" of a clerkship examination to be held in October next for the recruitment of nine clerks of whom seven should be Muhammadans for the lower division of the clerical service in the Bengal Secretariat and attached offices. I oppose the resolution on the second ground that the policy underlying it is subversive of true national solidarity. It raises an unfortunate barrier

between one community and another and begets distrust, suspicion and unnecessary irritation. Resolution of this kind pre-suppose an attitude of mind which does not contribute towards the growth of united national consciousness. Resolutions of this character generally tend to weaken the mutual bond that exists between us. We find it difficult to combine and present a united front because our interests are always gravitating towards that big centre, namely, "Self." I hope Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq will kindly see his way to withdraw the resolution.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I think it is a great pity that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq should have thought fit to raise this question before the Council. I hope I can claim some consideration at the hands of my Muhammadan friends here, because it was at their request—at the insistent suggestion of Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq himself, that early in the life of this Council, I withdrew my resolution regarding competitive examinations, even at the risk of earning ridicule and odium, simply because they wanted to come to some settlement regarding the proportion of Muhammadans in the public services of Bengal by discussions outside the Council. As far as I know, no serious attempt has been made regarding this matter, and here in this Council today, I find Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq moving a resolution which is tending to degenerate into a sort of racial squabble.

His resolution can have but one meaning, and it is this, that both Government and the non-Muhammadans have neglected the cause of the Muhammadans in the past, and there is a danger of their doing so in the future; hence it is necessary to have a due proportion of Muhammadans in the selection committee. If Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq's idea was only to fix the proportion of Muhammadans in the public services, he might easily have pressed for a certain percentage—it would have been a very easy matter after the Lucknow Congress-League Compact. Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq knows it better than any other member of this House because he was one of the authors and signatories of the Lucknow Congress-League Compact. I am surprised that Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, knowing that a definite proportion of Muhammadans can be secured merely for the asking, should press for the appointment of such a committee. But evidently he is not satisfied with that proportion or he cannot trust other communities to do justice to his community. It is very unfortunate, because we want to come to an amicable settlement and such a communal question should not have been raised in this Council at this stage of the Reform Scheme. I must say that the view that non-Muhammadans have done injustice to his community or that there is a danger of their doing so in future, cannot be justified by actual facts. He has said with a flourish that hundreds of Muhammadan candidates wait upon him from morning to evening in vain search for jobs. If the Maulvi Sahib and the Council will pardon a personal reference, I may tell him that scores of Hindus and Muhammadans wait

upon me and many other members for recommendation. I repeatedly tell them that I am looked upon by the Government as an oppositionist and that my recommendation would be of no avail, but still they come. What does it signify? It means not that Muhammadan boys do not get any jobs, but only this, that there are not enough jobs for the large number of qualified young men, be they Muhammadans or be they non-Muhammadans. That is all. It is all a part of the great unemployment question. I have recommended many Muhammadan candidates, but can the Maulvi Sahib tell me how many non-Muhammadans he has recommended?

**Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ:** Thousands. The heads of departments and others will bear me out.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** You cannot provide all your young men with jobs.

I am simply astonished that Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik should come forward at the tag-end of the debate to favour this Council with such an irresponsible declaration that Muhammadans did not get proper treatment in the past in the matter of appointments. This is a most irresponsible statement made without facts and figures, or does he think that his new official position makes him think that any statement he makes is authoritative?

It is a well-known fact, specially in East Bengal, that since the memorable days of Sir Bampfylde Fuller, every facility, and more, have been offered to the Muhammadans. Many honourable Nawab Sahibs had and have their vigilant eyes fixed on this matter. Does not Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq know of this? Have we grudged them any of the appointments? Out of five Assistants Registrars in the Co-operative Department, only one is a Hindu. Have we complained of this? Two Muhammadan members have left this Council having got lucrative jobs—Have we not rather congratulated them on their good luck?

I assert that the claims of the Muhammadans do receive proper consideration. Even if this will not satisfy them, let them demand a proportion of appointments—we have no objection. I can understand this attitude. I will go on supporting this attitude. But I do not understand this insinuation that non-Muhammadans neglect the interest of Muhammadans, nor their attitude of calling for the appointment of a committee with special Muhammadan members to consider a racial question.

Then, Sir, there is another grave danger in the resolution of Maulvi Faz-ul Haq. It looks like an insidious attempt to keep some appointments out of competition. In this resolution, there is a danger or a threatened set-back of the movement towards competitive examinations. We have been urging for competitive examinations for months and

months together, and we are glad to find that Government have at last shown an inclination to accept our view. I ask seriously—Is this the time, is this the occasion for suggesting selection boards and other methods and paraphernalia of nomination? We must have all Government posts recruited by open competition only. Of course, all communities will have their interests safe-guarded by having a proportionate number of posts, but the main avenue for employment is competition—not nomination—not favouritism—not nepotism. The system of nomination—be it by a Government officer, be it by the Principal of a college, or be it a selection board, is gradually breaking the backbone of the young men of Bengal. Are you going to perpetuate this pernicious system? No, I say, a thousand times no! If you value the manliness of your boys, if you value self-respect, dignity, straightforwardness, never for a moment suggest any method, which may, in any way, lead to any system of nomination and backdoor influence. There will be pitfalls and dangers ahead! I earnestly request my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, that as we are of one mind in several matters, he will be pleased to withdraw his resolution, even now.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** On a subject like this, it is extremely difficult for one to speak with frankness, but nevertheless, however unpleasant, the truth must be told. Of course, it is unpalatable that in the days of open competition somebody should raise this question and ask for the appointment of a staff selection board to discourse the same from the many phases which we cannot divulge. There is a Persian proverb saying that there is something within me of which the fragrance is out, but I cannot show its colours. There are advocates of free selection upon open competition and of leaving every discretion to the authorities. But I ask with all seriousness if in the matter of selection by the authorities, and the heads of departments, are they really free? I say "No." I think many heads of departments would welcome this staff selection board in order to save themselves from the importunities of their subordinates. It is an open fact that there have sprung up certain families from which alone officers are selected whether they are sufficiently qualified or not. The heads of departments are forced to do this, because the people already in the service approach the heads of departments at whose disposal the post lies, and with all sorts of importunities try to secure it for a man of their own.

Mr. Barton has raised the question that he does not favour the idea that any particular community should have an advantage over another and should ask for any favour whatsoever. I ask, are they not the ratepayers of Government? Do they not support the Government? Are they not entitled to the loaves and fishes of the State to which they largely contribute? Is educational qualification or the knack of passing the examination the only test for securing Government appointments?

Are educational qualifications the only claim to high roads to emoluments? I think not.

If the various communities which form the population contribute to the general coffer, they have a corresponding right to the loaves and fishes of the State which must be distributed with some consideration, no matter whether they have got high qualifications or not. It is necessary that they should have the necessary qualifications but not high qualifications. There was an interesting answer given by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education. A question was asked, how is it that B.T.'s, M.A.'s and others have been put in the lower grade whereas English teachers with lower qualifications have been put in a higher grade? In answer to the above question, the Hon'ble the Minister said that those gentlemen who had taken service for teaching classics had been put in the lower grade because their higher education in other subjects was of no avail and was of no benefit. Therefore he was justified that though they had higher qualifications, they were only entitled to the lower grade. As has been pointed out by Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, there are many posts in which Philosophy and such other things have no place. On the contrary, they are a disqualification. The only thing necessary is that the candidate must have the necessary qualifications and nothing more. If there is a post vacant for a clerk and if an M.A. applies, it is generally assumed that as he has applied, he must get it. I should say, "no," in spite of his high qualifications. The passing of University examinations has engendered in him a very high ambition and the post of a clerk would be too low for him. He will ever lead a discontented life and when he finds that his fellow students are sitting on the benches as munsifs and deputy magistrates with what heart can he work as a clerk drawing Rs. 40 or 50? We have also learnt by experience that if you appoint a man with a lesser qualification and at the same time necessary qualification, he will work with contentment and great efficiency. He will not bother the authorities for an increment of pay in time and out of time.

I know the affairs of the mufassal. Whenever there is a vacancy, sometimes there are public advertisements, and very often not. When the applications come to the office, there are various ways of manipulation and all the applications do not reach the authority having the power to dispose of them. They are put up before him at a time when he is in his best of humours and the head clerk or superintendent, in his usual whining tone, speaks about this man and that man, till the man who is a pet is appointed. The claims of other people who have got equal qualifications, sometimes better qualifications, for the job are not taken into consideration. Under the circumstances, it is highly necessary that there should be a selection board which should receive applications and the authorities requiring officers should send in their requisitions to it. If you think that undesirable, candidates would be thrust upon heads of departments, in that case, you may leave the final approval

to them but at the same time I venture to think that it is desirable that the board should make the selection. The selection board is a necessity.

I beg to point out another thing. Not to speak of Muhammadans, even among Hindus there are some communities which have some hankering for appointments and they justly put forward their claim. In answer to some question, I find that there were no less than 30 candidates for a police sub-inspectorship and none of them was taken. A member questioned " were they qualified "? How is it? Are they not residents of this province? Applications from unqualified persons are not taken at the time of selection. They are thrown out because even among Hindus there are some gentlemen to whom giving appointments to another class is a great sin and they cannot simply bear it. With that object in view, they make selections from other quarters, throwing away the claims of deserving persons. With these words, I strongly support the resolution put forward by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** The debate has been prolonging and I do not wish to detain the House longer, but I wish to draw attention to certain facts which I may be permitted to say are strong facts in this connection. As for myself I do not crave, for my own community, any indulgence. I know that service is the last thing for which we ought to crave but justice and fair-play require that we ought to have a share in the administration and we find that the circulars which have been issued by Government are not observed or rather observed more in their breach. If I remember right, there has been a circular that one-third of the appointments should be filled up by Muhammadans and the fate of other communities among Hindus which may be called depressed or backward and the fate of Muhammadans had been linked together in the same chain because there are not sufficient advocates to uphold their cause. There has been a circular to the effect that one-third of the appointments should be filled up by Muhammadans. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta says that Babu Surendra Nath Mallik made a gross misstatement when he said that Muhammadans were not getting their due share. If facts are necessary, I can give instances, but the rules preclude me from naming any particular person or place. So, I do not mention particular names. I know it for myself and I know it for certain that in a certain place, the sherishtadar was a Brahmin and all the appointments—the District Judge was an European—were given to Brahmins and to no other community whatsoever. It took some time to draw the attention of the officer to this fact but when he came to know of this, he was very much enraged and what he did was that he took up the list and judged for himself. Finally, he called on the sherishtadar for an explanation and his nearest relative was driven out of employment. This is a strong fact. I myself know a Bairagi who had passed B.A. with honours. He was a candidate for the executive service and he was going hither and thither to all the

leaders of the Hindu community as well as the Muhammadan community because probably he was the first person in his district to pass the B.A. examination with honours. No Hindu gentlemen would recommend him for nomination. I do not blame them because sometimes self-interest comes in. I do not blame all Hindu leaders because I know there are many whom I admire very much for their impartial views. But in practice these things happen. There was a Muhammadan leader who took up his cause and put up his case before the authorities. This happened only two years ago. You would be surprised to hear that he was not selected and an ordinary Hindu B.A. was given preference. Of course, there are many Europeans who are very strict over this affair, who have been seeing that the Government circular is given effect to with punctiliousness and strictness. They are doing justice to all.

I beg to submit that when Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta at one time put forward a resolution, it is we that prevented him from pressing it. These are facts and I draw the attention of the House to these things.

I respectfully request my friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, to withdraw his resolution in order not to embitter the feelings of other communities.

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** I think that we have a reasonable cause of quarrel with the mover of this resolution in that he has moved a resolution which apparently he has not read and he has spoken on a resolution which is not put before the House. When I received notice of this resolution, I circulated it to all the departments as they are all equally concerned in the reply. In not a single case did it enter into the head of any person dealing with it in any of the departments that this question was one of communal interest. It was assumed by us all that the object of this resolution was to affirm a principle that Government should, where it could not introduce a competitive examination, take the assistance of a representative committee to help it in selecting its officers, and on that basis we have prepared our reply. The hon'ble mover, however, has departed entirely from the wording of the resolution and has given the debate a twist which the following speakers unfortunately have followed.

There are two statements in the mover's speech which I wish to contradict. The first is his statement that the Muhammadan community has not had a fair representation. That I take to refer, as the motion does, to the Government of Bengal. The attitude of the Government of Bengal in the matter of Muhammadan representation is perfectly well-known and I claim that no one can maintain that the Bengal Government has not carried out its attitude to the letter in the matter of Muhammadan representation in all services at its disposal. The second point was the assumption made by the mover that the rules for competitive examination are so bad that he proposes to knock them to pieces

and frame new ones in consultation with the Legislative Council. I deny that these rules are bad. They may require changing next year, but if the motion of which the hon'ble member has given notice comes up before the House at all, I hope to be able to convince the House that our rules are immensely better than his. The mover got his nearest to the matter of the resolution when he mentioned a particular service. I did not want to interrupt his eloquence as I hoped that perhaps it was merely the first of the many services which he was going to mention; otherwise I should have risen and pointed out that he was out of order in that the Customs Service is a central subject and is not within the scope of this resolution.

Now I may devote myself to the resolution which perhaps I may read:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a staff selection board consisting of official and non-official members, in which there shall be a due proportion of Muhammadans, be appointed to receive applications from and to select candidates for all appointments under the disposal of the Government of Bengal."

There are two points in this resolution. The first is the staff selection board. If you start a staff selection board, what is to be the function of this board. The mover has not told us whether his selection board would be one for the whole of Bengal. If so, I say at once it is impossible; for each service we must have a separate selection board. We must have a selection board appointed *ad hoc* for the special purpose of selecting for that particular service. It would be beyond the wit of man to appoint one selection board which will be the best selection board for each individual service. If we are going to appoint a selection board at all, we must appoint it for a particular service. It is useless to appoint a person with a knowledge of police work on the staff selection board for the selection of a chemist. Therefore, I put it to the House that "a staff selection board" for the whole of Bengal is an impossibility. I do not wish to press that point because if the original mover had moved the resolution possibly he might have told us that he did not want one staff selection board but was prepared to accept any number.

The second essential point in the resolution is that it refers to appointments under the disposal of the Government of Bengal. What are the appointments under the disposal of the Government of Bengal? I myself, as Member in charge of the Appointment Department, spend half of my time assuring people that I have no appointment under my disposal and it is a fact. Going through the public services of Bengal, there are the Bengal Civil Service, the Bengal Subordinate Service, the Excise Service, the Excise Subordinate Service and the Provincial Police Service; the Imperial Services are, of course, not under the disposal of the Government of Bengal. All these five services, from this year

forward, are to be recruited by competitive examination at the express wish of the Council and there is no place for a staff selection board in a competitive examination because the selection is done by the competitive element in the examination. As Mr. Syed Nasim Ali has pointed out, there is a selection board, not to select the candidates but to reduce the number of candidates to a fixed number. There is a certain amount of misapprehension as regards the virtue of the number 200 which is fixed as the number of candidates for the purpose of the competitive examination. The number 200 is taken because all experts are agreed that that is the maximum number which an examiner can examine on a competitive basis. If you get beyond that number, the examiners cannot do it on a competitive basis and cannot compare one man with another. If it is merely a pass examination, they can take up any number; it is merely a question of increasing the number of examiners. But if it is a competitive examination, you must have the same examiner for each paper and no examiner, so we are informed by our experts, can with any conscience examine more than 200 papers and place them in the order of merit as between each other.

Turning to the other services, the Public Works Department are contemplating a competitive examination for their services at the disposal of the Government of Bengal. The Sub-Registrars are appointed at present on the nomination of Commissioners of Divisions from all over Bengal and that means that every body gets a chance. That system will be continued this year, but I am informed that the Minister in charge has under consideration the question of introducing a competitive examination next year. The Forest Service already has a selection committee, and on this point I may perhaps emphasise the fact that a selection committee is not quite the same as a staff selection board by which I understand the mover to mean a board which actually selects an officer and appoints him. The selection committees which have been set up by this Government are only advisory committees and this Government is not prepared, so long as it cannot introduce competitive examination into the service, to hand over its responsibilities for the actual appointments to any committee. What it is prepared to do is to associate with itself a committee for the purpose of advising it in the matter of appointments, but the responsibility for the actual appointments must remain with the Government and Government cannot divest itself of that responsibility until a competitive system is introduced. In the Judicial Service the power of appointments has nothing to do with the Government of Bengal. Under the law, it is vested in the High Court. In the Secretariat for the lower division appointments are made on the basis of competition. A competitive examination is held and those persons who pass the competitive examination are given appointments. For the Upper Division, we have hitherto taken the nominees who have been sent up by the Commissioners for the provincial and subordinate services but who have been unable to get any appointments

in either of the services. In future, we are perfectly prepared to consider the question of putting these appointments, which are very few annually, into the competitive examination held for the provincial and subordinate services.

There are already staff selection boards for certain medical institutions and certain educational institutions. There are boards appointed to assist the Minister in health appointments and so forth. I think that the Council will agree that the resolution that appears on the paper has been sufficiently met by what the Government is actually doing as regards the services at its disposal; and in working out the lines which Government was to take on this resolution, I had intended to wind up the speech by saying that as Government had already accepted the principle, which the mover is obviously desirous of putting before the Council, I would suggest that the motion should be withdrawn. Whether that appeal has any effect on the present mover, I cannot say. But if the motion is put to the vote, Government must oppose it in its present form because one staff selection board is impossible.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** My closing words on this debate will be very brief, but I shall try to remove certain misapprehensions which I find have arisen. I am sorry that I have been misunderstood. I am really very sorry that my language lent itself to the construction that has been put upon it by some of my Hindu friends here, but if I have been surprised at the heated debate which has given rise to the discussion on this resolution, I have been amazed at the alarm which has been evinced by my Hindu friends as regards the intention which it is said underlies this resolution. Only the other day, when I made certain passing references to the Calcutta University, I was faced with opposition on all sides because I attempted to show that Muhammadan interests are being sacrificed in that institution. Yesterday, when I wanted to draw pointed attention to I would not say the injustice but let us say, the non-consideration or inadequate consideration of Muhammadan claims, I am again faced with remarks from all sides, criticisms attributing motives to me and even insinuations, which I submit my language does not bear out. I am really sorry that this should be so. I may say at once, and I do not care if I offend anybody, that this attitude on the part of my non-Moslem friends bodes ill for the future, the political future, of this country. We want home rule, we want self-government, we want liberty, we want freedom and we want independence. Can we not have a little toleration for the needs and necessities of our less fortunate brethren? Can we not develop in ourselves that real civic spirit which allows us to subordinate our interests in order to foster the common interests of the country as a whole? What is it that I said? Did I ever say that incompetent Muhammadans should be put in any of these public posts? Never! I never used the word incompetent. I was treated to certain copybook maxims, efficiency, incompetence, and all that sort of thing. I never said it. You

read into my speech words which I never used and then proceed to criticise me. I am one of the most ardent advocates of efficiency in the public service. I would be the first person to denounce any policy which would seek to pitchfork an incompetent person, be he a Hindu or a Muhammadan, or a Christian or a Jew. I do not believe, I say, in a medicant policy. I do not believe that Islam was promulgated by the sword. But I believe in the good sword of Islam. I believe in the sword of Islam triumphant over its foes not by mendicancy but by that kind of sword which showed to the world what Islam could do in the days of Khaled and Saladin. I do not believe in a mendicant policy. I say these things because I want to make it clear to the House that nothing is further from my intentions than to ask for any favour. I ask for a just treatment. I think I can say that in the past Muhammadans did not receive just treatment. My friend, Mr. Mukherji, was pleased to say, "oh! that was an insinuation." Well, Sir, just as lawyers do, I would cite the latest case that comes from the High Court. There was a vacancy there and there were certain candidates, a Muhammadan candidate and half a dozen Hindu candidates. The real competition was between the Muhammadan candidate and a Hindu candidate. Both of them were Barristers. The Muhammadan candidate was a graduate of this University but the Hindu candidate had not even passed his Matriculation examination. Will you be surprised to hear that the Muhammadan candidate was not appointed? Is this preferential treatment shown to Muhammadans? This is one instance and I can give you a hundred more if you like. Not that the officials are lacking in good intentions, but somehow these things do take place and I think my Hindu friends would be the very first to admit that these things do take place.

Talking of efficiency, I would put a concrete case. Supposing there are 10 posts to be filled up in an office and supposing Mr. Donald is to fill them up only from members of the Muhammadan community, of course, by a competitive examination. Even if the competitive examination is held, would not there be a row? Why? The reason is obvious. Because it would be rightly thought that other communities must have their due share in the public services of the country, if we are to accept the principle that all the communities must travel towards a common goal. I do not for a moment attach much value to this—I do not personally—but they have got a value of their own. Supposing a man gets a clerkship on Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month. He can then give education to his son and other poor relations. He becomes a source from which all these persons draw necessary expenditure for their education, in other words, that clerk really becomes the means of imparting education to say, half a dozen persons among his family members. Education is a costly thing, but that is the way in which a man educates his children who in return may become useful members of the public service in future. Not only that, but they may fit themselves politically and otherwise to take their share in the administration of the country. That certainly is a consummation to

which we are all looking. And though I say that public service should not be the be-all and end-all of our ambition, it is not right, it is not proper, it is not fair, it is not just to deprive any community of their due share of appointments. I was talking yesterday of minorities. By that I meant minorities of all kinds. Muhammadans as a matter of fact are not in a minority in this province. There are other communities, for instance, the community to which my friend, Mr. Mullick, belongs. There is the community, whose representative, Mr. Barton, did not realise what I meant by moving the resolution and does not yet realise the danger his community is confronted with. I meant all these communities in the province. I am in favour of competitive examination, but I want to make it so elastic that all the communities may be represented in the public service of the country. I repeat for the hundredth time that I do not want any incompetent men to come in but all I want is that competent men from all communities should be represented in the public service.

My friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, expressed his sorrow that of all persons I should have moved this resolution. I do not know whether he meant it as a compliment. What am I here for—a Muhammadan member representing a Muhammadan constituency? If I were not to push forward now and again the claims of my community, what am I here for? The Muhammadan community might have as well elected Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. They have sent me here, rightly or wrongly, to push forward their claims.

My friend, Professor Mukherji, said that certain appointments are now reserved for Muhammadan, but does not my friend know that such a thing has happened because we stand here and clamour for our rights in this Council and now and again push forward our claims? It is the result of the hammering that we give. Let us keep quiet and then we will find that Muhammadan claims will be forgotten. It is because that we show some amount of activity that our claims are recognised. That is the justification for our being here and bringing forward the Muhammadan claims before this Council. I admit that sometimes I go beyond the limit and I may confess I am a bit of a fanatic in this matter and it may strike my friends that I may overdo it sometimes and that I feel that I am here for no other purpose than that. When I was a boy, I remember to have read that he who aimeth at the sky shoots higher than he who aimeth at a tree? That is why I want 32 annas so that I may get 8 annas. If I ask for a full share I know that I will get 30 per cent., but if I were to ask only for 30 per cent., which is even less than our due, I am afraid we would get nothing at all. After all, it is a question of haggling and when there are so many communities putting forward their claims, this must happen. Therefore, my Hindu friends need not be afraid at all about our claims. I say all my life I have been a nationalist but I have never advocated that the interests of any community should be sacrificed. But what I want is that there

should be just treatment, equal treatment of all; and if at any time I advocate a policy of self-government or home rule, it is on a basis of equal partnership and equal rights—not that a particular community should be subordinated to another community, but that all communities should advance hand in hand towards the common goal, under the ægis of the British rule.

Reference has been made to my esteemed friend, Mr. Mallik. He has found it by himself by personal investigation how the Muhammadan community had suffered previously for the last 60 years or even a century. The Council will be surprised to hear that out of two crores of rupees spent in the higher appointments in the Corporation not more than Rs. 500 goes to the pockets of the Muhammadans at the present moment. There are thousands of officers in the Corporation and I am not exaggerating when I say that not even fifty of them are Muhammadans. Of course I am leaving out peons and chaprasis. That is the condition of affairs in the Corporation.

As Mr. Stephenson has told us, this question of staff selection board is nothing new. I am sorry that I have no time to discuss the kind of selection board we want and as regards the resolution, I may say that I do not want to hurt the feelings of any community but as regards the suggestion of withdrawing it I am afraid I cannot do so. I am however prepared to amend it by deleting the words "in which there shall be a due proportion of Muhammadans."

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Can the member, at this stage, amend his resolution?

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I object to the amendment being made at this stage if we are not to be given an opportunity of discussing it.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** I shall put the question before the House.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** May I inquire what procedure is being followed? There is no such provision in the rules under which this matter can be put before the House. You can suspend the rules and allow the amendment to be moved, but if any one objects, how can the amendment be put to the House?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You can do so by leave of the House.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** But I do not find any such provision in the rules.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Is the member in order in discussing the Deputy-President's ruling?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I might make my position clear at this stage. Even if the amendment is moved, the Government is not going to accept the amended resolution.

The amended resolution, which runs as follows, was then allowed by the Deputy-President:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a staff selection board consisting of official and non-official members, be appointed to receive applications from and to select candidates for appointments under the disposal of the Government of Bengal."

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** Before you put the amended resolution, may I ask why I was not allowed to speak on the resolution?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson wanted to speak first.

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** But there were other speakers too and until they had finished speaking the debate should not have been stopped.

The question being put a division was taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Aizal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Rishi, Babu Rashik Chandra.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

**NOES.**

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Barton Mr. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
DeLisle, Mr. J A.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Rae, Mr. W. R.

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kisher.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Yarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel H. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 28 and the Noes 60, the motion was lost.

## Agricultural Demonstration centres.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that in every thana there should be established an agricultural demonstration centre under one demonstrator having both agricultural and veterinary knowledge.

At the very outset I most sincerely thank the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea and Mr. Goode for giving effect to the resolution regarding medical relief and also providing drinking water to the poor people of Bengal. But there is one more vital matter. To the poor cultivator his bullocks are as dear as his children. If he loses them he loses all. Every year lakhs of cattle die in epidemic in some districts or other. Rinderpest has claimed its millions in Bengal. We ought to understand what that means. It means the loss of cattle of a cultivator which means his entire self. It also means the permanent poverty of the people. It means the dearness of the price of rice which easily our *sujala sufala* motherland yields to us in a great measure if the cattle do not die. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that preventive and remedial measures should be taken. In every civilised country millions are spent for this purpose. Bengal is wholly an agricultural country and, therefore, our need is much greater than that of any other country. Three things of most essential and vital importance in this country are—(1) medical relief for the poor and helpless, (2) supply of drinking water, and (3) preventive and remedial measures for cattle diseases. When the last three taxes were imposed, I proposed an amendment that one of them should be ear-marked for essential and vital purposes. That was disallowed and we were told at every step that there was no money for vital purposes. I do not despair. I would even be prepared to an imposition of another tax for vital purposes if that is ear-marked for them. My resolution was of a more extended character but Mr. Swan kindly proposed to me to make it more limited. Therefore, I have adopted the suggestion and just now it is of a very modest character. I have taken this opportunity of bringing these facts before the Council because of the necessity of greater activity.

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** I move, by way of amendment, that the motion of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur do take the following form, namely,—

"This Council recommends to the Government that in every thana there should be established not more than three demonstration centres, according to the area of the thana, under one demonstrator with knowledge of agriculture."

The resolution of my esteemed friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur regarding demonstration centre in every thana is very commendable, but with the hope of making it more effective and a practical one, I want to alter it a little and the explanation which I am going to offer will, I doubt not, satisfy my friend.

The agricultural problems loom large before us. We have started agricultural experimental farms at Burdwan, Chinsura, Sibpur and Kalimpong. Numerous researches have been made, but I am sorry to say that those are rather for the agricultural specialists than the practical formulæ which our peasants pursue. To give a further stimulus, an agricultural school was started at Chinsura, but the object has failed, students from the cultivating classes are not forthcoming. To teach the middle class or classes of people other than the agricultural class, the method of scientific agriculture is sheer waste of money and energy as these students like best to become departmental demonstrators than farmers themselves. Thus it has become evident that the improved method of agricultural system must be brought out, out of the cloisters of the University to dwell upon the practical fields. I thank my friend that he has brought this resolution before the House. But good as it is, its obvious good intentions cannot be fulfilled, unless a broader aspect is taken. One demonstration centre in one thana means something inconvenient to our peasants. To make the points more clear and tangible, I beg leave to state the number of thanas and their areas of some of the districts of this province: as mentioned in the *District Gazetteer*.

| | Thana | Square miles. |
|---|---|---|
| Howrah ... ... ... | 11 | 510 |
| Burdwan ... ... ... | 23 | 2,689 |
| Hooghly ... ... ... | 13 | 1,189 |
| Midnapore ... ... ... | 36 | 5,186 |
| Birbhum ... ... ... | 9 | 1,732 |
| Murshidabad ... ... ... | 23 | 2,143 |
| 24-Parganas ... ... ... | 41 | 4,844 |
| Bankura ... ... ... | 9 | 2,621 |
| | 165 | 20,934 |

Adding these together, we get 165 thanas and 20,934 square miles or roughly speaking, one thana for 126 square miles, which again roughly means, a space, say, 12 miles in length and 10 miles in breadth. That

is the average area of a thana. Now, Sir, what I mean to say, is it possible that our peasantry will take full advantage of the demonstration centres, which we are proposing to open for their benefit? I think they should not be able to derive benefit from this arrangement. In the rainy season they would not be able to attend as that will be the time for cultivation, and again, in winter, after gathering the harvest, they will not be able to attend as at that time they will have to look after their own affairs. Besides these facts, our villagers are extremely conservative, they lack initiative power and consequently curiosity. They will not traverse so many miles to learn new truths which might be profitable to them in the long run. To teach them we have to reach them, they will not come of their own accord to us and, therefore, to reach them we have to start demonstration centres nearly in every village. But this is impossible, first because the funds will not permit, and secondly, where shall we get such a large troop of agricultural demonstrators? That is why I propose that two or sometimes three demonstration centres should be opened according to the area of a thana. The average area of a thana being divided by three becomes three spaces, two of them are 8 by 5 miles; and one of them is 10 by 4 miles. Still this area is a big one. The average area of a thana, namely, 126 square miles, is a thing which cannot uniformly be found in all the districts. In the districts of Burdwan and 24-Parganas, the average is nearly the same. In the districts of Hooghly, Howrah and Murshidabad, the number of thanas is far above the average. But in the districts of Bankura and Birbhum, the number of thanas is far below the average, in the case of the former there is one thana in every 291 square miles, and in the case of the latter, there is one thana in every 194 square miles. Thus one demonstration centres for so big a space as 14 by 14 miles will be of no use; here, if we divide the area by three, we will get three spaces, two of which may be 10 by 7 miles and one 14 by 4 miles. This, however, may be practicable. I want this small and limited area, as I want to teach the real cultivators of the soil the various truths regarding agriculture.

Our soils in many places are showing signs of diminishing returns. This is certainly the result of over-exhaustion. They can be recouped if scientific method of manuring be applied to them. The first demonstration that is to be made to them is to teach them how to increase the profit from crops which they generally cultivate. Secondly, we have to teach them the improved method of manuring. Thirdly, we have to show how to increase their outturn for their benefit by trying to introduce better and more profitable crops, which have been properly investigated and experimented in Government farms.

It may be assumed that the demonstrators will tour through the villages and will explain to the villagers practically on the spot and on their own fields but even in this case, the area of a thana is too

big for one demonstrator; moreover, whatever practical demonstrations may be made on the spot, the majority of the demonstrations should be made on the demonstration farms; in this case the peasant ought to attend the demonstration centre to understand it properly The next point of my friend is that every agricultural demonstrator should have veterinary knowledge also, which is impossible. We cannot get men at once having these double qualifications and we cannot wait for them. I, therefore, request my friend to drop the idea That can be separately looked after by the Department. Lastly, I beg to add that if the required number of demonstrators according to this scheme be not available, I hope the Government will agree to undertake to launch the project at once with the few demonstrators, who will be available, assuring us that in future, as more and more demonstrators will be available, the sphere of activities will similarly be increased as proposed.

**Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** I support the resolution cordially. The district demonstration farms cannot attract owing to the distance, our village cultivators to come and see model farms and the modes of using improved implements and can do very little towards educating the cultivators in agricultural matters for which purpose they are established. Now the time has surely come when there should be an extension of these institutions for economic and other reasons. These demonstration farms should be started for every thana so that the cultivators may reap the benefit in the matter of improved agriculture from the demonstration farm and they at the same time can get advice in the matter of improving their cattle, and also when their cattle is ill. At present they cannot do much work owing to their number being very small.

As regards the amendment I think it will be very costly to have three demonstration farms within the jurisdiction of each thana.

With these few words I support the original resolution.

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the resolution moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. My reason is that unless there are demonstration centres at every thana, the poor cultivators cannot be benefited. They cannot all go to the headquarters of their districts where there are demonstration farms at present. I beg to point out only one other matter and that is that the demonsrators who will be appointed for these thanas should have some training in veterinary science. So far as I can understand, unless they have veterinary knowledge, they cannot do much good to the people by going to the villages, because the question of improving the cattle is an essentially important question not only in Bengal but also in any other part of the world. In my part of the province, foot and mouth disease is so prevalent that the cultivators find

themselves in very great difficulties. If the demonstrators have some veterinary knowledge it would prove to be of great help to the poor villagers. If there are farms in every thana, demonstrators will have an opportunity to go into a village and to impart the knowledge of improved cultivation to the poor villagers. At the present moment, what is the position of these cultivators? There is no attraction whatever for them to go to the headquarters which may be very far from their villages to get instruction in improved methods of agriculture. For these reasons, I say that these farms should be established at every thana and that the demonstrators should have some veterinary knowledge.

With these words, I support the resolution.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I desire to speak on the subject. Having been connected with the agricultural farms and the work of the demonstrators, I beg to submit that the resolution of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur seems to me a very large order. It is very difficult to get hold of many demonstrators especially located in each thana. I am inclined to think that the proposal made by Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur may demand the consideration of the Council. The work of the demonstrators is not a very easy one. They move about from village to village to explain to the cultivating people how the work is to be done, and what manure is to be applied, I may say from my personal knowledge that the cultivators are very slow to accept the views of these demonstrators because their views are opposed to their old crude ideas. It is necessary for the Hon'ble Minister in charge to consider whether it will be an easy matter to carry out the resolution suggested by the Rai Bahadur. I submit to the Council that we will have to proceed on the lines suggested by the demonstrators. I think it is necessary to have more farms for this purpose. I am afraid we cannot at this stage ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department to provide us with more farms in different parts of the province. I therefore think it is better for us to improve gradually accepting the views of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** These two resolutions, the one moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur and the other moved by Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur, deserve the most careful consideration on the part of the House. There are 658 thanas in Bengal. I do not know if the Rai Bahadur has calculated the cost that would be necessary for opening out so many agricultural centres. If I am to admit frankly I have very little faith in the improved method of agriculture. If one would look into the budget carefully, one would see that the Government expenditure for improved agriculture exceeds by about two lakhs the income from the improved method of agriculture. If the villagers are to be taught this sort of economy, I think

the villagers would not come forward to learn these things. Moreover, there would be some difficulty in getting lands and there would be difficulty in getting qualified agricultural experts. Of course, the mover has the best of motives. He wants to improve the food-supply of Bengal, but I doubt whether his object would be fulfilled by the establishment of so many agricultural centres.

With these words I oppose the resolution.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** spoke in Bengali supporting Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

Agriculture can be improved if the cultivators are properly trained, and at the same time immense good will be done to the country if they are given any training in the treatment of cattle. Cattle pest has become the by-word of the country, and some remedy must be devised for its prevention. If a number of veterinary doctors are available in the country, the pestilence may be averted to a certain extent. With the increase in the cost of living the prices of cattle have gone up, and it is physically impossible for the poor agriculturist to purchase his cattle at an enhanced cost, and the result is that he cannot cultivate his pasture lands. It is, therefore, that starvation stares us in the face, and the country is now on the verge of bankruptcy. The zamindars would not exempt the cultivators from paying rents under any circumstances, and the money-lenders would not refrain from charging high rates of interest. The inevitable consequence of all these is that the cultivator is forced to mortgage his landed properties at prohibitive rates of interest, and when he is hemmed in on all sides with insurmountable difficulties, he is under the painful necessity of disposing of these at a nominal price. Milk-supply has become scarce consequent upon the destruction of cows, and adulteration is, therefore, so prevalent in these days. I would, however, strongly urge that with the furtherance of agricultural education a veterinary training should also be imparted to the poor cultivators in order to save the country from pestilence, famine and other ills.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Government are fully aware of the necessity of increasing the number of demonstration centres in Bengal. They have already announced on more than one occasion that it is their policy to have an agricultural demonstrator for every police-station in Bengal. This is a goal which cannot be reached immediately. There are 674 police-stations in the province, and at present we have only 79 demonstrators. The number can only be gradually increased not only on financial grounds but also because the training of these demonstrators takes time, and only a limited number of qualified men can be turned out each year. In the supplementary demands which were voted in

the July session, the Council made provision for 50 new demonstrators to be appointed during the current year. This is the largest number of posts for which it will be possible to find trained candidates. The mover proposes that our demonstrators should not only be agriculturists, but should also have some training in veterinary knowledge. This is a matter which has been engaging my attention, and I have been in consultation with the Veterinary Adviser to the Government on the subject. It has been decided that in future our demonstrators should be given a short course of training in first-aid, cattle-breeding and cattle hygiene. A number of demonstrators have already gone through a course of this kind and it is intended that gradually a similar veterinary training should be given to all the demonstrators in the department. I am, therefore, in agreement with the mover of the resolution, and I accept the recommendations which he has made.

As regards the amendment moved by Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur it is open to objection on the ground of expense, because it involves the acquisition of more land, and on the ground that if a demonstrator is to be in charge of three centres much of his time will be wasted in travelling from one centre to another. Whereas for his work to be really useful, it is necessary that he should be constantly present at the demonstration farm and look after it. One man cannot be expected to work properly in three places. The expression "perfect knowledge of agriculture" too is vague. There are many degrees of agricultural knowledge and I do not think a very high degree of knowledge can be expected from the men of the demonstrator class. We hope, however, that the training which they will get in our secondary agricultural schools will do something to raise the standard.

There are over 600 police-stations in Bengal and many years must elapse before we can provide one demonstration centre for each of them. I think, therefore, that we should be well advised at present to content ourselves with aiming at the provision of one such centre in each thana. When that has been accomplished the question of additional centres may reasonably be considered. While sympathising with the object of the mover of the amendment and with his enthusiasm for agricultural propaganda, I suggest that his amendment is premature and ask him to withdraw it. If he is willing to do so, I can then accept the original resolution as moved by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur.

The motion of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur was put and lost.

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur's original motion was then put and agreed to.

## Establishment of a Bengal Radiological Institute.

**Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to establish at a

suitable centre in Bengal a Radiological Institute to be placed in charge of a specialist.

On the 21st of February this year, a resolution was moved in this Council urging Government to take immediate steps to establish a Radium Institute in Calcutta. In the course of the debate, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea expressed his sympathy with the resolution, but he was rather sceptical as to the usefulness of Radium as a curative agent in cancerous and other malignant growths. The Hon'ble Minister went into the question of the relative value of X-rays and radium and he advised the House to go by expert opinion as to the usefulness of radium and deep X-rays as a curative agent. He convened a meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Health on which I had the honour to serve and got the opinion of the members as to what steps should be taken for the establishment of a Radium Institute in Calcutta. In the resolution now before the House I am asking the House to consider the desirability of establishing a Radiological Institute, which is a combination of a Radium and X-rays Institute. By Radiology I mean the science of curing diseases by means of rays from radio-active bodies like radium, actinium, and also X-rays, ultra-violet rays, Finsen rays, etc. X-rays are classified into soft rays, *i.e.*, those which are not very penetrating and hard rays, *i.e.*, those which are very penetrating and pass deep into the tissues. When radium was first introduced, its value as a curative agent was very much recognised in the treatment of cancer because all the three grades of radium rays, viz., the Alpha, Beta, and Gama rays pass deeper than the deepest X-rays and it was for this reason that the medical profession thought that they had found in radium rays the means of curing diseases of a malignant nature; and this fact has given rise to the difference of opinion among experts which the Hon'ble Minister referred to previously, namely, whether the deepest X-ray therapy was the panacea for the cure of cancer or whether it was the radium rays. I submit that it is a combination of both these—Radiology—which is the best curative agent. Professor Sietz and Wintz of Erlagen in Saxony have worked a technique by which they are curing malignant growths specially of a cancerous nature, cent. per cent., and so great has been the success of this technique that it has revolutionised the treatment for cancer in every Radiological Institute in the Continent of Europe and in America. So far as we know, by means of other methods, cancer only in its very early stage can be cured under favourable conditions by extensive operation, but in its later stages the case is inoperable—a term by which the surgeon means that one can operate, but it may not be of any value to the patient, who may die of the shock of the operation or that the result of the operation will not be of any material advantage to the patient and the disease may get disseminated into the whole system. It is only in the very early operable cases that cure has been effected by drastic operative interference.

Such an operation for the cure of cancer of the womb is named after a celebrated gynæcologist named Warthiem's of Vienna. Erlagen technique is now replacing Warthiem's operation in Warthiem's own hospital in Vienna, by demonstrating the great advantage that radiological treatment has over surgical operation performed even in the earliest stages of cancer. Now what I wish to impress on the House is that Radiology is the best and a sure cure for cancer. Let us see what is the opinion of the medical profession and scientific world at the present time.

I maintain that there is a very large body of opinion in Europe and America that radiology is a cure for all cases of cancer, not only in the very early stages of the disease but even advanced cases yield to this treatment. What is the present position of the profession outside this line of treatment? The present position is that unless a cancer case is in its very early stage recognised and operated on, it is incurable even by an extensive surgical operation, and what I have now stated will, I trust, be borne out by the hon'ble Surgeon-General, Colonel Wilson, who is a surgeon of great repute and who, till recently, so creditably occupied the Chair of Surgery in the Medical College of Bengal. He will, I am sure, bear me out that unless cancer of the womb is treated at a very very early stage, one may operate upon the patient, but one can never say that one will give the patient any cure. In Europe they have no prejudice against operative treatment, yet what is the treatment resorted to for such cases in up to date European hospitals? They take the help of Radiological treatment. But what do we find here in India? In India, we have a great dread for and prejudice against operation; so Homœopathy, Unani, Ayurvedic and other systems are resorted to, because they promise to cure without the aid of a knife, and without a surgical operation. That is one of the reasons why these systems are so popular in this country. Now, Sir, here is a disease which has no chance of cure unless operated upon at the ealiest stage, and here is a community who is afraid of the knife and has prejudice against surgical operations. Therefore, Indian patients will come to the surgeon not at the early stage of their disease but after they have tried Hakimi, Unani, Homœopathy, etc., and when every other system has failed, they come as a last resort to the surgeon when no suffering is too much for them. At that stage at best only a palliative operation, that is a non-curative peration which may give only a partial or temporary relief can be ffered to the patient after undergoing the risks of a most extensive peration in a run-down and emaciated patient.

Another point which has also special reference to our community n connection with the treatment of cancer of the womb, fibroid tumours f the womb and in many other diseases associated with that organ is he social ideas and customs of our country. Our females will never et themselves treated by the celebrated gynæcologist of the day. I

had the advantage and benefit of getting a training at the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin—one of the largest gynæcological institutions in the world—and I was astonished to find what a large number of women came there for the treatment of what would be considered here as the most trivial cases, and they always got cured, because their diseases were in an incipient stage and attended to early. But the women in this country owing to their time-honoured custom will never consult a male doctor. They seek the advice of female quacks or an indifferent female doctor till their disease grows from bad to worse and reach the inoperable and incurable stage. Therefore, dread of operation on the one hand, and the social condition and prejudice on the other, helps the fatal malignant disease of the womb to grow till an inoperable stage the patient, driven by the excruciating pain and suffering associated with the disease, either suffers a painful lingering death or at last offers herself for treatment by the surgeon's knife. But consider what have we got to offer as a substitute in the case of Radiological treatment? The patient never sees the surgeon who operates in a dark room and behind a screen. The rays are thrown over the diseased part of the body, from over the clothes without any undue exposure and, as if by magic, the disease disappears without the patient feeling the treatment or knowing any thing about it. There is no fear of keeping the early cases away. I think here is a wonderful means of cure before us. If it be argued that Radiological therapy can give cure only in 95 per cent. of cases, I ask what other system can give even 5 per cent? It has certainly the potentiality of relieving pain in cent. per cent. of incurable and inoperable cases. Morphia injections and other narcotics and soporific agents only deaden pain and that for a short period. They do nothing else. Radiological treatment gives permanent relief to the patient and also gives a longer lease of life and rest. If the Hon'ble Minister wants a definite case I may be allowed to refer to a recent case of a lady patient within my knowledge who suffered day and night for several months and did not know what sleep was in spite of most potent norcotics. She consulted the celebrated doctors and gynæcologists of the country, but they could not give her any relief and said she was suffering from cancer. The lady got no relief. She consulted Hakims, Kabirajes, Homœopaths but all to no purpose. She was treated with morphia injections but that too failed to have any effect as the disease grew older. At last the Radiological Institute at Ranchi was suggested and she was sent there. She has returned from there and has got relief even at that advanced stage. She has improved in health and is free from all the symptoms of the disease. Even if it was not an absolute cure, what does it matter? Its value is purely academic, but it is certainly a sure means of alleviating the sufferings of the patient, and, I think, if only for this reason, the members of the Council should give their support to my proposal. But I have said it cures all early, and nearly all well recognised cases of malignant disease.

We are voting money for surgical instruments and operation theatres. Hundreds and thousands of rupees are spent for instruments indented from Europe and America in order to give to our patients the best chance of recovery. If the Hon'ble Minister is not satisfied that Radiological therapy is an absolute and sure specific for cancer, and malignant growths, the hon'ble the Surgeon-General will, I am sure, bear me out when I say that no surgical treatment insures and promises a certain cure not only in malignant cases but in everyday surgical operations like an amputation for a smashed leg and thigh. Does that stop us from doing our duty by our patients? I think a strong case has been made out for the House to vote money for the establishment of a Radiological Institute.

Now let us see how much money will be required. If once we get Rs. 50,000 worth of radium, we can proceed to work. We spend a large sum of money in surgical instruments and appliances which are liable to rust, deteriorate and depreciate in value. On the contrary, the value of radium hardly goes down; it has every chance of appreciating in value, because in Europe and America there is only a definite quantity and they are frequently in need of radium, they may buy from you in which case you may sell it at say Rs. 75,000. Then with our stock of radium you will be able to cure people of fatal diseases and earn a handsome revenue as fees. It is a business proposition and I am sure would appeal to the members representing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. It is a reproductive scheme. If you can spend this amount of money it will be a source of income, for you will be able to send emanations of the radium to wealthy out-station patients. So the combination of X-ray and radium will not only be of immense benefit to suffering humanity, but also be profitable. We must admit that although radium is a costly thing, its value as a curative agent is undoubted and immensely outweighs its sterling value; and what is Rs. 50,000 or a lakh of rupees compared to its usefulness. Therefore, we should not hesitate to spend a couple of lakhs for the establishment of a well equipped Radiological Institute in Bengal. Whether Calcutta is the best place or not, it is for the Hon'ble Minister with the help of his expert advisers to decide. Personally speaking, however, I think Calcutta is a very suitable place; for here we have already got the Lady Minto Electrical Annexe in charge of an expert with a staff of trained nurses. This can be developed and converted into a fully equipped Central Radiological Institute. The money spent will not be wasted. Radium does not deteriorate in the heat of the plains. The cost of embarking on such proposals which may involve a lakh or a lakh and fifty thousand will be amply justified by the considerations which I have advanced in its support. You may take it, Sir, that radiological treatment is not in an emperical and experimental stage. It is regarded in the light of an exact science. In India we are generally and mostly guided by what is done in the British Isles. In St. Bartholomew's

Hospital in London, where Colonel Wilson, our present Surgeon-General had his training, there is a Radiological department. There are in the City of London about half a dozen Radiological departments attached to different hospitals and the University of Cambridge confers a diploma in Radiology. But in Calcutta, which is the second city in the British Empire, the London of the East, we have not got a single institution for the purpose. Our people have to go to Bihar for treatment at the small Radium Institute which has been established by a retired I.M.S. officer. The premier province in India—the commercial and intellectual capital of India—ought to have a Radiological Institute. It is the most suitable centre for establishment of an Imperial Radiological Institute at a very early date and like Cambridge give training and diplomas in Radiology. I commend the resolution to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister and appeal to the non-official members of the House for their whole-hearted support. I also appeal to my hon'ble friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, the non-official Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, to see that the Calcutta Corporation gives adequate support and grant to this laudable object.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** I am rather glad that my friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, has thought fit to bring before the Council this proposal and has quite justly given us a discourse on the wonderful achievements of that excellent element radium. As medical men we are vitally interested in the observations and experiments over radium carried on by medical men and scientists all the world over, and nothing has startled us more during recent years than the discovery of radium and its application for medical purposes. All throughout the civilised world radium is being tried to cure cancer, tumour, etc., and large sums of money are being spent for this purpose. We all earnestly hope that ere long we shall find out what diseases may be eradicated and cured with the help of radium. It must be admitted that the Government in this country are not totally inactive in this respect. Not far from this city—I mean at Ranchi—we have a Radiological Institute in which very useful work is being done at the present moment. As a medical practitioner in this city, I have come in contact with a few cases of wonderful results achieved at Ranchi. Since then I was thinking whether the work of the Ranchi Institute could not be made more widely known; and my friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, has done a service by giving that publicity to radium, and we are thankful to him for the same. I agree with him so far. But I humbly differ from him when he says that another Radium Institute should be at once established in a suitable place in Bengal. I believe he must have Calcutta in view. Ranchi was not outside Bengal till only the other day, and it is not a very distant place either from Calcutta. Those who want benefit of the radium treatment can easily go there and make arrangements for it. Although great expectations are reposed on the wonderful achievements of radium,

I do not think that the time has come when we should insist upon the Government to establish another centre in Calcutta. I personally feel that perhaps the day is not very distant, but my friend may be considered to be impatient if without waiting for the results of the experiments in radium carried out all the world over, especially at Ranchi, he asks us to recommend to Government to spend a large sum of money for another Radium Institute in Calcutta. However anxious I may be for the popularisation of radium, however anxious I may be that there should be a thing of this kind nearer our home, I am disposed to advise the Council to wait for a short time. Another point that strikes me is that even if we decide to have a place for radium treatment in Calcutta at once, we need not make a separate arrangement for that purpose. We have in this city the largest medical establishment in the East—I mean the Calcutta Medical College to which the Tropical School has recently been added. What justification would there be in multiplying institutions. The proper course should be to ask the authorities of the Medical College to extend its sphere of usefulness by making arrangements for radium treatment in Calcutta. I believe Colonel Wilson and other gentlemen connected with Government will gladly take upon themselves to see how far the facilities of the Medical College can be utilised for this purpose and our object will be gained without incurring any very large expenditure. In any case, it is the opinion of many that we should rather wait a short time to find out how things work, before the establishment of a separate Radiological Institute in Calcutta is decided upon.

**SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Wilson):** With your indulgence and that of the members present, I should like to make a few brief remarks in connection with the very excellent proposal put forward by Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy. I do not consider that this is the particular place or the particular occasion for a technical discussion as to the advantages or disadvantages of radiological treatment. I claim to have a little knowledge of the subject, but I am of opinion that it should be left to a committee of experts who are working upon the subject to submit its report to Government for decision as to what steps should be taken. I think the members here will all agree that the time has come in India, and particularly in Calcutta, for the establishment of a Radiological Institute which should be worked in connection with the Lady Minto X-ray Institute. We have radium to a certain extent in Bihar and I think there is some in Bombay also. I believe only Ranchi possesses the quantity of radium necessary for curing what are called remediable diseases. In the matter of quantity, 250——300 milligrammes of radium would be required to cure malignant diseases, such as cancer—that is the information which I gained from the Radiological Institute of London.

Now, Sir, this is not the place for discussing a technical question like this. We do not know fully as yet what are the limitations or possibilities of radium; it is early yet to speak on the subject with any degree of certainty, I would like to have the opinion of a large number of medical men working upon it in connection with the cure and alleviation of cancer, for it is particularly with regard to this disease that we wish to make Calcutta the centre of such an institute. Calcutta is the centre to which most of the poor people come when they are attacked with diseases requiring an operation of surgical importance. It is no use saying that the resources at the disposal of the Radiological Institute at Ranchi are sufficient to cope with the demands of the poor people of Bengal as well as of Bihar. So I think the centre must be at Calcutta.

I greatly admire the enthusiasm of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, but I am not quite certain that I share the optimism with which he regards this question of radiological treatment. I do not deny that a Radiological Institute is necessary and essential. If we can find the funds, the sooner the better; but we should first want more detailed information and knowledge about the matter. It is not a scheme which it will do for us to rush into hot-headed. We must first of all have expert opinion with regard to the amount required, the technique in connection with its working, the particular kind of building required and so forth. I agree with Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy with regard to the necessity and importance of a Radiological Institute for Calcutta, but I would suggest to him that he should leave the matter in the able hands of the Hon'ble Minister who would, I am perfectly certain, have it put forward in a detailed form. As it is a measure for the public good and for the relief of human suffering, I am sure it would receive the consideration which the Hon'ble Minister always gives to such questions. In these circumstances, I would suggest to Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy that this matter should be put before the Hon'ble Minister in detail, so that when funds are available it would be taken in hand.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** During the last session an identical resolution was moved by my friend, Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy, and I whole-heartedly supported it. The main grounds of my support were that from all accounts which we received from the daily press and medical journals, it seemed that the value of radium was not certainly less than a straw to a drowning man; and the amount of evidence that had been collected by the radiologists of Europe had shown that they were doing useful work. During the last session the Hon'ble Minister very kindly invited us to a committee mainly on the lines desired by Surgeon-General Wilson. We met and it was found that the consensus of opinion was neither for nor against it. The idea was evenly distributed, and as a matter of fact, the committee desired Dr. Kedar Nath Das, who was then going to England, to inquire about the radiological institutes in

Europe and inform the Council what he found there. I do not know what Dr. Kedar Nath Das has reported to the Council and the Hon'ble Minister, but this much is certain that he is favourably disposed towards the question of establishing a Radiological Institute in Calcutta. At one time, my friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, was against this proposal, but I am very glad now that he has agreed to the establishment of such an institution. I had to discuss this question with him for several minutes to convince him that a Radiological Institution was a necessity in Calcutta. However, I am very glad to see that he has not only agreed to the proposal but he himself has brought forward a resolution like this, over which he is now an enthusiast.

As regards the question whether a Radiological Institute should be established in Calcutta or at Ranchi, may I know why Bengal should be dependent on Ranchi in this respect? Bengal is sufficiently rich—although there is financial stringency here—to establish a Radiological Institute of its own; furthermore it has got a Medical College, whilst there is none in Bihar, and so it is fitting that a Radiological Institute should be established in Calcutta in connection with the local Medical College. It will teach the students Radiology and will be a source of immense relief to the large mass of suffering humanity. I have explained that there was a committee on this particular subject, for the information of Surgeon-General Wilson who was not on the committee; so I do not like that a further committee should be appointed to further thresh out the question *ad infinitum*. The time has come when a pronouncement from our kind Minister should be made accepting our demand for the establishment of a Radiological Institute in Calcutta. In this way it will greatly add to the usefulness of the Medical College so far as the relief of suffering humanity is concerned.

With these few remarks, I heartily support the resolution so ably moved by my friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy.

**Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** I do not think that I have a right to speak on the subject. I have never seen radium in my life, nor do I want to. If it is a fact that there is going to be an institute, it is bound to be in Calcutta. It is a shame to think that our people should have to go to Ranchi, Balasore and places of that kind. For us, the people of Calcutta, it is absurd, most preposterous. What is it that you are speaking of Rs. 9 lakhs and things of that kind. It is a disgrace if we cannot find this amount for establishing an institute of this character for the amelioration of suffering humanity, but it is a preposterous idea to think of going to Ranchi. If it is to be established anywhere, it is to be in Calcutta and Calcutta only, because Calcutta is the best of all places. There is no place like Calcutta. So far as the Corporation is concerned, the members of the Corporation will be large-hearted enough to give every consideration to the claims of an institute like this which is for the purpose of ameliorating suffering humanity.

They have always been benevolent in this respect; they have always been helping institutions like hospitals, nurses' institutes, bacteriological laboratory, baby clinics and maternity homes in the shape of grants. Why should they not? If there is to be an institute like this in Calcutta, certainly they will be glad to contribute their share to it. All I can say is that if there is going to be an institute, it is bound to be in Calcutta as there is no place like Calcutta. Everything good and great must be in Calcutta for it is the greatest City in the East.

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** I think that the thanks of this Council and of the public are due to Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy for bringing forward this resolution before the Council. Dr. Suhrawardy, if I may say so without impertinence, is inspired almost with apostolic fervour in regard to the establishment of a Radium Institute in Calcutta. We have learnt a great deal from the learned discourse which he has presented to us this afternoon. I think I rightly interpret the sense of this Council when I say that we all desire to sympathetically consider the question of the establishment of a Radium Institute in Calcutta. Having regard to the financial position of the Government, its attitude at present must be one of non-committal, although at the same time I may say on behalf of the Government that it has the deepest sympathy with this proposal and it is only a question of time as to when a Radium Institute will be established in Calcutta.

My friend, Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra, has referred to the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Health Department in which this matter was considered. Dr. Moitra was present and so was Dr. Suhrawardy. We commissioned Dr. Kedar Nath Das who was then proceeding to England and Dr. Mackay to obtain information in England with regard to the work of radium institutes in that country. Dr. Das unfortunately has not been able to provide us with any information on the subject. We are awaiting the report of Dr. Mackay. Then, Sir, matters of detail have to be considered. A question has been raised as to whether it should be in Calcutta or whether we should associate ourselves with the institute at Ranchi. Speaking personally, not on behalf of the Government, speaking as a public man born and bred in Calcutta and proud of this city and its traditions, I say that if an institute of that kind is to be established it ought to have its home and habitation in this city and this city alone. I am very glad to find that that is the feeling expressed by my friend, Mr. Mallik, the acting Chairman of the Corporation, and what is more, he has anticipated the judgment of the Corporation in regard to the financial help which we may derive from that body in this connection. He has told us that the Corporation, in conformity with its traditions of beneficence in supporting institutions of this kind, will undoubtedly lend its countenance and its financial aid

to this institute when it has been established. I am sure he is a good prophet and he has anticipated what the verdict of the Corporation will be. If he continues to be, at the time, as I am sure he will be, the chief executive officer of the Corporation under the new Act, I am confident that he will employ all his great power and influence in fulfilling the anticipations which he has outlined above.

**Mr. D. C. GHOSE:** If the new Act permits.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** My friend says if the new Act permits. We shall see to it that it does, because it will be a most useful institution which should receive the active financial support of such a great body as the Corporation. Therefore, Sir, speaking on behalf of myself I will say this that I am in the deepest sympathy with the resolution of my friend, Dr. Suhrawardy. Speaking on behalf of the Government, I may express the same feeling. As a member of the Government I am not at present permitted to proceed further, in view of our financial difficulties with which the Council is so familiar. Well, the sympathy of the Government—not the lip-deep sympathy which my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, was sometimes content to impute to Government—the sympathy of the Government, if it is real, if it is active, is a moral asset which has a value all its own and I have not the slightest doubt that this sympathy when funds permit will materialise in a case like this into active support. Beyond that I am not prepared to go. I trust that with the assurance which the Surgeon-General has given to Dr. Suhrawardy and with which I thoroughly associate myself, my friend will see his way to withdraw the resolution which he can bring forward again.

**Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** We have heard what the medical members of this House had to say and what the Surgeon-General, the expert adviser of Government, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, and the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Departments. I thank them one and all for the warm support they have given to this resolution. I am, however, surprised at Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur's speech. The point raised by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, that the Radiological Institute should be located outside Calcutta and that we should go to Ranchi has been repudiated by every member who has spoken including the Surgeon-General. Apart from the fact that the Ranchi Show is a small and incomplete one, it is not a Radiological Institute. Calcutta is the medical capital of India, it is the centre, where the sick, both rich and poor, are attracted from all parts of India, by the fame of its eminent physicians and surgeons, and it is here where all the modern resources for the cure and relief of sick are handy and it is here that we should have our Radiological Institute. If an operation is inadvisable, the patient will attend the Radiological Department just as they are now

advised to be placed in the Surgical, the Medical, or the Eye Department as the case may be. The Rai Bahadur thinks, because the School of Tropical Medicine is situated in Calcutta, the Radio Institute should not be established. The case is just the reverse. If the Rai Bahadur took the trouble of finding out what goes on in the countries outside India or even outside Bengal, he would see that just as in every well-organized institution in Calcutta there is a maternity ward, a surgical and medical ward, in Europe there is a Radiological Department also. Therefore, a Radiological Institute must be associated with advantage with the biggest and the largest medical institution in India. I need not say anything more than this. I have got on my side the opinion of the greatest expert in this House, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Wilson, F.R.C.S. (England).

With regard to the point raised by my colleague, Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra, I may inform the House that in the cold weather, when this question was discussed in the Standing Committee of the Public Health Department, I did not oppose the idea of a Radium Institute being started. He has thoroughly misunderstood me. In the beginning of my speech I wanted to explain for the benefit of the lay members, the difference between a Radium Institute and a Radiological Institute. I think that Dr. Moitra does not require elucidation. I certainly supported General Deare in the meeting of the Standing Committee. He explained clearly the difference of opinion regarding the curative virtue of the deep rays of radium and the Special X-ray. He never opposed the establishment of a Radium Institute nor did I do so. I have explained at some length at the beginning of my speech that the combining of X-rays—intensified X-rays and radium has given the best results. That is all that I have to tell my friend the Opthalmologist for his suggestion.

Before I sit down I must offer my thanks to the Surgeon-General, Colonel Wilson, for the great support he has given to the scheme and his expert support, no doubt, will have much weight with Government; I am also grateful to the Hon'ble the Minister for his ever-sympathetic support to my resolution like everything else that is introduced in this Council for the advancement of Public Health in Bengal. With the assurance that I have got from the Surgeon-General and from the Hon'ble the Minister, I think that I should withdraw the resolution. But I do so temporarily to bring it forward again if I find that Government are not taking the first opportunity of putting the cost of building and equipping a Radium Institute in the next year's budget.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

**Maulvi Md. RAFIQUE UDDIN KHAN** being absent, the following resolution, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the postponed scheme of the partition of the Mymensingh district be carried out as early as possible."

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** May I be permitted to move that resolution in the absence of Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin Khan?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I have already called on another person to speak. It is too late.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** Unfortunately Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin Khan is not in good health. He is just coming.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** I rise to a point of order. Two members cannot address the House at the same time.

**Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur:** Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin Khan has entered just in time.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** On a previous occasion I had to do the very same thing when Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur was passed over.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I think that Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur is in possession of the House.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Yes, he is.

## Irrigation Works.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to prepare a comprehensive scheme of irrigation works for the province, and that detailed projects be forthwith undertaken and that excavation work be commenced from the beginning of the next official year, if not earlier.

In moving this resolution, I ought to begin by stating that certain observations in the Annual Irrigation Revenue Report for Bengal for the year 1918-19 tempted me to move this resolution. What I desire is the working out of a combined project of irrigation works of a comprehensive character.

Railway *versus* Irrigation is a large topic. It is time to amend past policy. The dire distress at Khulna should set us athinking, why famine, scarcity of food-grains and distress is so very frequent in this country. The question is one of grave importance. So far back as 4th September, 1901, the late lamented Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutta, C.I.E., I.C.S., speaking on the economic condition of India at the Philosophical Institution, Glasgow, among other things, said—

> We should try to ascertain how far the sources of national wealth in India have been developed by Railways and how far the annual harvests of the people have been made safe by irrigation works.

We can very well make the same inquiry in this year of grace 1922. There is no doubt that the question is one of first importance both for the rulers and the chosen representatives of the people to decide. We are often asked and oftener reminded to differentiate between famine and scarcity of food-grains. But all the same we are constantly hearing from one or other part of the country tales of suffering and dire distress due to scarcity of food-grains—in fact due to famine conditions and this state of things continues in agricultural Bengal. It is, therefore, so much the wonder. The condition of the people of the Khulna district (no less than 4 millions, I am told) is a sad and harrowing tale of woe and suffering resulting in disease, slow and painful deaths and suicides. A worse state of things cannot be conceived.

One who has seen the irrigation works in the United Provinces, Sind, the Punjab, Madras, Bombay and Bihar and is also conversant with local conditions in Bengal, will, let me hope, admit that very small attention has been paid to the question of irrigation in Bengal. To me this seems unfortunate.

I find in the resolution on the annual Irrigation Revenue Report for Bengal for the year 1918-19, it has been admitted that the "whole question is one of irrigation combined with agricultural and sanitary drainage." What I ask this Council is, to give practical effect to this official view in dealing with the whole problem of irrigation in Bengal. In this Presidency, very little thought has been spent over this matter. Bengal is pre-eminently agricultural and yet it is in Bengal that irrigation which forms the most essential feature of agriculture has been relegated to the position of least importance. If a comparative table is prepared giving the quantity of crop production in the localities which have the facility of irrigation with that of localities without irrgation facilities, it will be found that the production of irrigated land is better and higher than that of land without irrigation facility. To design and carry out an elaborate and extensive scheme of irrigaton in Bengal—a scheme, again to quote the official language—"combined with agricultural and sanitary drainage" is not likely to tax the skill and energy of the Engineers of the Bengal Irrigation Department. I have no doubt that at the present day, we will find many engineers among the irrigation staff in Bengal of the type of Sir P. Cautley, who designed and carried out the Upper Ganges Canal project from Hardwar to Cawnpur with thousands of minor canals and Rajbahas with syphons to irrigate every piece of land in the United Provinces. Many among us must have seen the Solani aqueduct, the *Pathri* viaduct, the Asafnagar fall, the *Nadrai* aqueduct (Lower Ganges Canal) on the Upper and Lower Ganges Canal in the United Provinces. These works and the construction of the Ganges (Upper) Canal in the United Provinces are monumerts of engineering skill. I mention these facts simply to show what insuperable difficulties have been overcome in constructing irrigation

works in the United Provinces and other parts of the country. I confidently hope that Irrigation Engineers in Bengal are as skilled in their profession and as resourceful as their brother officers in Upper India, Sind and other places have been, and when the task is given to them they will rise equal to the occasion in designing a plan of irrigation combined with agricultural and sanitary drainage and best suited to Bengal.

If I remember aright, I think that in reply to a question in the first session of the Legislative Assembly, it was admitted by Government that the return on the capital outlay on Irrigation works came up to 9 per cent. not a poor return after all. I mention this fact by the way only to show that irrigation works cannot be classed under the head "non-productive works." It pays the country in several ways. It brings revenue to Government Treasury and better crops to the agriculturists and we all know what this means.

Bengal has got certain irrigation canals. The total area irrigated by those canals during the year 1918-19 was 80,749 acres. There cannot be a proper record and better proof of Bengal's inadequate irrigation system. I hope to be able to prove my contention by comparison.

I find it officially admitted that "perhaps the most important condition of the growth of agriculture in India, with all which that growth implies, is the prosperity and extension of the Irrigation system." Records of irrigation in Bengal do not show that the matter has been looked into in this way in our Presidency. We all know that irrigation is carried out in four principal ways, and they are also classified under three main heads, viz.:—

(*a*) Productive work;

(*b*) Protective works; and

(*c*) Minor works.

To have an idea of the extent of irrigation works in other parts of India it will be to the point to mention that to the end of the year 1918-19, the capital outlay on productive work amounted to £3,807 millions. In this particular year, the total receipts including land revenue due to irrigation from the productive canals, amounted to nearly £5 millions and the total expenses including interest to £275 millions. The net profit, therefore, during the year 1918-19 from productive works was about 2·2 millions giving nearly 5·7 per cent. upon the original outlay. This is only an all-India average. Now a few words about protecive works. They are not directly remunerative, but as they are constructed for the protection of precarious tracts and guard against the necessity of expenditure on relief works during famine. Construction of these is as necessary as productive works. By the end of 1918-19, the capital outlay on protective works had amounted to £7 millions. This is also an all-India figure. There were 120 minor works up to the year 1918-19.

Capital expenditure on these works was about 4·6 millions. Direct and indirect receipts from these works were over £427,000 millions and resulted in a profit of about £169,000. It is here only that I came to an interesting point of comparison. During the particular year 1918-19, length of main and branch canals with distributaries was over 66,120 miles. What is the portion of this mileage likely to be in Bengal? Twenty-five millions of acres of land was irrigated during the year 1918-19. Bengal canals, however, irrigated only 80,749 acres. The point is important in making a comparison. In other parts of India, 15 major works were under construction at an estimated cost of nearly £2·6 millions and the net revenue anticipated from these works was £104,000. Here again, Bengal had nothing to do with these works that were in progress during the year 1918-19. Besides these 15 major works projects for 7 estimated to cost £453,000 were awaiting sanction. It is only here that Bengal comes in with one project—its Grand Trunk Canal project which has now been sanctioned. But this will be a navigation canal for the facility of inland trade. It is not the combined irrigation project of the kind Bengal is so badly in need of. Other Governments in India than Bengal were engaged in investigating 11 new projects estimated to cost £31 millions and this outlay was expected to yield a net annual revenue of about 2¼ millions. The most important of these works are the Thal or Sindh Sagar Doab project, the Sutlej Valley project and the Sukher Barrage project. The Thal project will cost £6¾ millions and when completed will irrigate 1¾ million acres. Then again the Bhakra Dam Scheme on the Sutlej is estimated to cost about £9 millions and is being designed to store water to a depth of 360 feet above the river bed. This dam, when completed will irrigate 1·4 million acres. Has Bengal ever conceived any irrigation project like this? Of other important projects in other parts of the country, I may mention the Cauvery (Metur) reservoir project in Madras comprising a dam and a canal 78 miles long with connected distributary system. The cost will be between £2 to 3 millions and will yield a good return. This work when completed will irrigate 37,000 acres. Next comes the Sarda Canal project (United Provinces). Its cost will be about £4 millions and expected return 9 per cent. and the work when completed will irrigate 2 million acres. The Sutlej Valley project (the Punjab) when completed will irrigate more than 3 millions of acres.

I ask, again, if Bengal can boast of any irrigation work worth the name while they are numerous in other provinces. The recently sanctioned Damodar Canal project has very little to recommend it—13 per cent. of total cropped are irrigated by canal water but Bengal Canal irrigates 80,749 acres. In the Punjab, nearly 9 million acres are irrigated by canal water and about 270,000 acres are annually added to the irrigated area of the province. It may be contended that the Punjab is very dry and requires an extensive system of irrigation works. But is not failure of crops in Bengal due more to want of rain than excess of water?

The distress in the Satkhira subdivision and neighbourhood sorely affecting a population of hundred thousands of people, the last Bankura famine and dire distress in other districts in Bengal were all due to scarcity of water. Had there been an adequate system of irrigation works, both protective and productive in Bengal, crop prospects and condition of the people engaged in agriculture or who live also on agriculture would have been much better and we would have heard much less of distress caused by failure of crops, scarcity of rain. It is significant to note that the people of Bankura have taken the initiative in organising a co-operative Irrigation Bank.

The fact that in the whole of Bengal only 80,749 acres of land are irrigated by canal water is in itself sufficient to show our total indifference and apathy in the question of irrigation. I have dealt with and am still dealing with all-India irrigation figures only to show the attitude of other Governments in the matter of irrigation.

I have given acreage, of irrigated land in Bengal. In the United Provinces, 3½ millions of acres or more are irrigated by canal water and the Sarda Canal project when completed will irrigate many million acres. Sardah-Kichha Feeder (Project) canal will irrigate 345,000 acres. I next come to Bombay irrigation figures. In Sind and Deccan together about 3 million acres are irrigated by Government canals. Besides, Sukker scheme (Sind) irrigates 2½ million acres and in Deccan and Guzerat 340,000 acres are irrigated. Madras irrigation figures are equally interesting and I intend to conclude by giving them here. In Madras, 7 million acres are irrigated by regular canals. Besides there are other schemes of irrigation and of these the Periyar lake scheme has been recognised to be the boldest and most interesting reservoir scheme in India. The scheme needs mention for its special feature. The Periyar river, with its source in the Western Ghats, flows westward through Travancore. The Madras Engineers constructed an immense masonry dam 175 feet in height. No light task in an almost inaccessible gorge 3,000 feet above the sea, thereby creating a reservoir of over a million cubic feet capacity.

The water from the reservoir is carried by means of a channel 1¼ miles long through a range of mountains to the opposite side of the watershed, thereby diverting the river from the western to the eastern slope of the ridge. In the year 1914, 174,000 acres were being irrigated from the lake.

I repeat again, has Bengal ever undertaken any irrigation project of this kind? Money and engineering skill are now needed for a network of canals not only for agriculture and navigation but also for sanitary drainage.

I beg to submit to the Council that the reason why I have spoken about the number of acres irrigated in other provinces is simply to draw a comparison between the work done here and in those provinces.

I know for certain that the Hon'ble Member in charge of Irrigation takes a keen interest in the subject. I know for certain that he is trying his best to improve the irrigation system, but still I think it necessary to move the Council for this purpose in order to impress upon it the absolute necessity of paying our due attention to this important subject. Without irrigation nothing can be done in Bengal. This is a fact which is known perhaps to every member of the Council; this is a fact which cannot be gainsaid; this is a fact which can be ascertained from the reports I have referred to. My submission to the Council is that here I am not discussing a controversial point. I am not discussing a political matter. I am referring to the real, solid work which the Council can do, namely, to look to the irrigation affairs of their own country. If we do that, if the attention of the Council is referred to this matter, I am quite sure our position will be very secure. If we fail to do that we shall remain where we are.

With these words, I commend my resolution to the acceptance of the Council.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** The House has been treated to a long and learned discourse on the subject of irrigation works by my esteemed friend, Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur; if I now want to make a speech even one-tenth as long as he has done, I am perfectly certain the House will not like it. So I refrain from doing this. I presume my friend, by his wise speech, has already convinced the Council of the necessity for a scheme for irrigation work. Learned as he is, experienced as he is, he must have in his written speech given all informations about the subject, and I hope Government will give due consideration to his remarks. Now I only want to point out that my amendment suggests the omission of the last two lines. I feel the necessity of a comprehensive scheme for irrigation works in our province; I also feel that the preparation of this scheme should be taken up at once without waste of time, but I am bound to differ from the mover when he says that this scheme should be forthwith undertaken, and I still further differ from him when he says that excavation work should commence from the beginning of the next official year. Here I think he is suggesting something which is practically impossible; this is the reason why I have taken the privilege of pointing out that perhaps these two lines might be omitted. My amendment is that the following words be omitted, viz., " and that detailed projects be forthwith undertaken and that excavation work be commenced from the beginning of the next official year, if not earlier."

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** I move, by way of amendment, that in the resolution of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, after the word " province " the following words be inserted, namely,—" on the basis of the Sone Irrigation, if possible."

I congratulate the hon'ble mover for his bringing in the question of irrigation before the House, and I beg to second the resolution so ably moved by him with slight addition as mentioned in my amendment. It must be remembered that the nineteenth century, and specially the latter part of it witnessed many fine exploits of irrigation works in Madras, in the Punjab and even in Orissa. I remember that General Sir Arthur Cotton, the highest authority on scientific irrigation in India, at one time contended, that the famine question can be definitely settled by undertaking irrigation on an extensive scale; his belief in waterways was so great that he even thought of connecting the rivers Ganges and Sind with the rivers Nerbudda and Cauvery, and thus to bring the eastern part of Afghanistan into close touch with Assam. But the bureaucrats of India found that the wholesale irrigation of India meant the abandonment of railway projects. They, therefore, raised an alarm to which Lord Curzon had to yield. He appointed an Irrigation Commission in 1901, and in 1903 they submitted their report. They recommended that 6,500,000 acres could be irrigated and further asserted that any more undertaking would not be profitable. Accepting their findings to be true, Lord Curzon, in his final budget speech in 1905, remarked that the irrigation question was yet the maximum programme open to human agency and finite power.

Thus the question of irrigation on an extensive scale was shelved. Before that, the Government had two proposals before them in Bengal. The Rajmahal Canal Committee of 1841 recommended a scheme of permanent line of inland irrigation between the Ganges at Rajmahal and the Hooghly at Mirzapore. They further recommended that it would be remunerative and that it would add to the agriculture and commercial resources of the province.

The next scheme was the Eden canal project. This scheme originated as a sanitary measure because practically speaking, it is an offshoot of the fatal epidemic which visited the district of Burdwan in 1861-62. The scheme was proposed in 1873, and in 1874 the head of Kana Nodi was opened and cuts were made to connect the canal with Kana Damodar and Swarasati. Finally, it was opened in 1881 by Sir Ashley Eden. When a demand for water arose in 1882, 20,000 acres were irrigated from this canal. Rapidly the irrigated areas rose. As the canal was undertaken as a sanitary measure, there was previously no water-rate, and water was supplied free. Water-rate was imposed afterwards. Then came the agitation for a thorough system of irrigation through this canal. An Irrigation Commission on Damodar was appointed, but their findings were the same. They remarked that to make the Eden canal scheme an effective one, a weir at the head sluices costing about Rs. 8 lakhs should be constructed. But they further added that as the canal was run at an annual deficit of Rs. 10,572, the scheme should be abandoned.

Now, Sir, all these years, we have two reports: fields suffering from scarcity of water, and in others from flood. For the first, irrigation is necessary, and for the second, drainage works will be required for flooded areas. The districts on the left bank of the river Ganges are the natural basins of the river, and consequently they require also better drainage works than irrigation. The districts of East Bengal and flooded areas of the river Damodar and other rivers are similarly in need of drains for their surplus water. Irrigation was practised from a very long time in West Bengal, that is in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Hooghly and Howrah. The indigenous methods of irrigation, that is irrigation by dams, wells and tanks, are very expensive and incomes realised fall usually far short of expectations. But Bengal, on the other hand, stands pre-eminent for gigantic engineering undertaking. No other province in India possesses so vast, and at the same time, so large an expense of fields and meadows blessed with convenient slopes, and along with it an extensive amount of water-supply. Thus Bengal, like the Punjab and Madras, has been designed by nature as an ideal province for an extensive scale of irrigation. But Bengal has had her characteristic too. The irrigation canals which have turned the deserts of the Punjab into laughing cornfields, or the deltic canals which have compelled the black cotton soil of the south to yield a bumper harvest, will be of little use here. The natural configuration of our country requires perennial canals on the model of the Sone system. It is an example of recent practice in the construction of scientific canals. The Sone canals have one heading at a common point, and have a common diversion weir. They consist of two main lines, one from each bank. The project was undertaken in 1869, and was finished in 1875. The total cost was Rs. 15 lakhs. From these a net work of branch canals, namely, the Patna, the Buxar Canal, the Arrah Canal issue and running side by side with the river for some miles, finally fall into the river Ganges.

So I propose that this Sone system of irrigation should be introduced in Bengal. There is no denying the fact, and it is admitted by Government itself, that the great want of the Burdwan district, specially of the central and of the western parts, is a proper supply of water for irrigation purposes.

Artificial irrigation is also urgently wanted in the district of Bankura. The district has numerous rivers and streams and canal irrigation was not unkown. The native rulers excavated an excellent canal called the "Subhankari" khal, which has long since been silted up. It ought to be opened at any cost, because, economic calculation should not be the first consideration when we know that Bankura has been set aside by famine as its permanent abode. The district of Birbhum is similarly in need of irrigation. There are two rivers of considerable importance and the river Ajoy is one of them. Engineers should be

employed to find out means to launch extensive canal irrigation. Artificial irrigation, specially canal irrigation, is also necessary in the thanas of Arambagh and Khanakul in the district of Hooghly.

Thus, Sir, to put the whole thing into a nutshell, it is evident that we are in need of irrigation. We require it because we want to irrigate our fields to supply food to our increasing population. After what I have said, I hope the Government will find that any scheme for irrigation properly launched will improve the condition of the country and at the same time will minimise the dangers of famine.

With these words, I beg to second the resolution of my friend, the Rai Bahadur, with the addition as mentioned before.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** I rise to support the resolution so ably moved by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. The food problem is growing very acute every day. Bengal in the past had to produce food only for the children of this country, but Mother Bengal has now to find food not only for her own children, not only for her foster children, but for the starving millions of other countries. It is admitted by all that nature is rather very kind to Bengal, and we can easily get food-crops in this country, but we should try to fight against the vagaries of the weather. Now, Sir, in other provinces the Government is trying to improve the food-supply by adopting improved forms of irrigation, but Bengal has been neglected for a long time. It is the duty of the Reforms Council to see that amends are made for the remissness of the past.

With these few words, I beg to support the resolution of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** If the thinness of the House is any indication of the interest that Bengal takes in its irrigation projects, I am sorry for Bengal.

The point at issue, however, is this. My esteemed friend, Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, wants the Irrigation Department to produce a comprehensive scheme for irrigation in Bengal. Whilst, however, he has given us certain interesting facts regarding the conditions of irrigation in other parts of India, like Madras and the Punjab, he has not given me anything with which I could worry the life out of Mr. Huntingford and his subordinates with regard to how we could fit some of these irrigation projects of the Punjab and Madras into Bengal, with its abnormal rainfall, and with its river system so very different from these two provinces. What also I have missed in the Rai Bahadur's arguments is that he has not brought forward a single scheme relating to Bengal regarding which the Irrigation Department has been remiss, to use the picturesque language of Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri. It is,

easy to make a general criticism, and had that criticism come from somebody else than my esteemed friend, the Rai Bahadur, I would probably have taken him to task very severely; but as it has come from Mahendra Babu I shall let him down gently with this remark that in this province when we have to consider irrigation schemes, we, in the Irrigation Department, must be told that these are your schemes which you have not considered, these are the schemes which you have not been able to bring forward, but when we are told by the two Rai Bahadurs of the Hooghly and Burdwan districts the way how the Kistna and its tributaries canalise the country through which they flow, the way that the canalisation system in the Punjab has made a barren countryside into a smiling happy home, when we are told by Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur after his mentioning to us some ancient history regarding some of the Damodar projects, that the Ajai river can be canalised after the system of the Sone river in Bihar, one really grows despondent, because these are impossible suggestions for a province like Bengal. But although I have to turn down these ideas, I do not wish for a moment for the mover and his supporters to understand that I do not sympathise with the idea of irrigation projects for Bengal. On the other hand, I think that there is a great deal for us to do in the Irrigation Department to improve the present condition of some of the rivers, but what I feel is that the resolution as worded is an impossible one for me to accept. We have got schemes, we have got projects, we have got a programme and since 1919 we have steadily carried on with that programme which consists of several drainage and irrigation schemes. At the present moment the projects that have been taken up are 37 in number, and the area affected in square miles is 3,491; of this seven projects affecting an area of 230 square miles have been completed and brought into operations; seven projects with an area of 711 square miles are under construction; one project affecting 82 square miles has been sanctioned, but no work has been done owing to want of funds. There are nine projects affecting 924 square miles which have been prepared and are under technical scrutiny by Government, and 13 projects affecting 1,544 square miles are under investigation, whilst the examinations of some of these projects are nearly complete. Apart from that, we have got projects like the Damodar Canal which will, if we are able to bring it before the Council, and if my friend on the right will finance it, mitigate a great deal of the hardships that are now to be found in the tracts through which the Damodar passes. But what I do feel is this, that as the Member in charge of a responsible department, I cannot possibly accept a resolution of a general kind like the one which has been brought forward, although I am quite prepared to give this assurance to the mover of the resolution, that if he cares to meet me and the Secretary of the Irrigation Department and point out to us any particular scheme that he has in view, we shall satisfy him with regard to the condition of that scheme or with regard to the possibilities of that scheme in the near future. But as it

stands, we are not prepared to accept this resolution, especially on the grounds that have been pressed before us, viz., that we should have some irrigation schemes simply because the Punjab and Madras have their own irrigational schemes; because in such matters we have got to consider the local conditions, the rainfall and the river system of the province, with which we are concerned.

I hope, Sir, for these reasons, the mover of the resolution will understand that it is not possible for Government to accept a resolution of this kind, and that he will withdraw it.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I have listened to the speech of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur. My resolution was to have a scheme prepared for the whole province and not to confine it to any local area. That point has been missed. I have not come before the Council with a specific scheme, but a scheme of wider survey and wider aspect. That is not confined to a particular project; if I have brought to the notice of the Council facts and figures dealing with the irrigation system of other provinces, I have done it for the sake of comparison and nothing more. I am perfectly aware of the fact that the conditions in Bengal are not the same as those in the Punjab and other places, and my point in the resolution was that a scheme, a good scheme, a wider scheme, for the whole province should be made. I am sorry this has not met with the approval of the Maharaja, and consequently I have nothing more to say than this, that he will kindly consider whether a definite scheme for irrigating the lands of Bengal should not be taken up. But if a scheme be prepared partially for a particular locality that will not serve the purpose. I need not say anything further, I only hope that the Council will accept my resolution.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** May I explain one point here to the Rai Bahadur? According to expert advice no general irrigational scheme for the province of Bengal is possible. We can only take up individual schemes for individual areas.

The amendments of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur were then put and lost.

The original motion standing in the name of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur was then put and lost.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Monday, the 28th August, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 28th August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 91 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery in Calcutta Medical College.

***XLII. Mr. S. MAHBOOB ALEY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery in the Calcutta Medical College is not an F.R.C.S.?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a member of the Indian Medical Service who goes on study leave and comes out successful in the F.R.C.S. Examination, is given an allowance of money as bonus and accelerated promotion in recognition of his meritorious work?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Fellowship of a Royal College of Surgeons is an indispensable qualification in a person holding any important teaching appointment in any hospital or school in the British Isles?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a member of the Indian Medical Service, who is also an F.R.C.S., was available in Calcutta?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Principal of the Medical College was not consulted regarding this appointment?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state on whose recommendation or nomination this appointment was made?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for not following the past practice of appointing an F.R.C.S. to the post?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** (*a*) The facts are as stated.

(*b*) No bonus is paid, but study leave counts for service and pension while a daily allowance of about 10 shillings a day is given during the course of study. If the course of study has been duly approved and is successful, six months' acceleration in promotion is also given.

(*c*) The Minister has no information.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) and (*f*) Nominations for such posts are made by the Surgeon-General and the Principal of the Medical College has no voice in such appointments.

(*g*) It is not the practice invariably to appoint an F.R.C.S. to this post. The most suitable and experienced man is ordinarily selected.

### Varole Khal Bridge near Poradah.

***XLIII. Mr. SYED ERFAN ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that the bridge over the Varole Khal in the Poradah subdivision was demolished by the railway authorities in 1916 when constructing the embankment for the Poradah chord line?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the District Board and the Government Engineers have frequently approached the railway authorities to replace the bridge without effect?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that the railway authorities have made a great number of pits and excavations and ditches in constructing the embankment and railway sidings at Poradah?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that these excavations, etc., are a source of danger to public health as they are full of water-weeds and anopheles mosquito larvæ?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the railway authorities of connecting these ditches together and taking them up to the bridges near at hand or converting them into tanks where possible?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) There was no permanent bridge over the Varole Khal at Poradah at the time of the construction of the chord line by the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities. There were the posts of an old timber bridge which had been destroyed by flood some years previously and, on these, a bamboo foot-bridge was erected annually by the villagers. The Railway authorities did not demolish the foot-bridge.

(*b*) No. The facts are that after inquiry in 1917, the Government of Bengal decided that the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities should not be required to provide a bridge over the khal, but that if the District Board were prepared to do so the Railway authorities would be

moved to relinquish the land containing the site of the bridge. The District Board, however, expressed their inability to find funds for the construction of the bridge.

(*c*) It was reported in 1914 that this was the case and the Railway authorities were at the time requested to make arrangements for draining the borrow pits.

(*d*) The attention of Government has not been drawn to the matter since 1914.

(*e*) The matter will again be brought to the notice of the Railway authorities.

### Brajo Mohan College, Barisal.

***XLIV. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Brajo Mohan College of Barisal receives any contribution from Government for its upkeep and maintenance? If so, how much?

(*b*) Was there any capital grant for land acquisition, construction of buildings, etc., for this college? If so, how much?

(*c*) What is the present constitution of the Governing Body of the College Council?

(*d*) Is it correct that there existed, or still exists, a tension of feeling between the President and the Council? If so, what is that due to?

(*e*) How often did the College Council meet during the incumbency of the present President, and how many of these meetings did the President attend?

(*f*) Did the District Magistrate of Bakarganj submit any report to the authorities regarding the management of the college?

(*g*) Was there any departmental inquiry on that report?

(*h*) If so, what had been the result of the inquiry?

(*i*) Is it correct that the Principal of the College, Professor N. G. Mukherjee, M.A., had gone away on long leave and is at present serving as the Principal of the Rungpur Carmichael College on a higher salary?

(*j*) Has any Principal been appointed in his place? If not, why not?

(*k*) Who is acting for the Principal?

(*l*) What are his academical qualifications?

(*m*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the gentlemen on the teaching staff of the college with their academic qualifications and salaries?

(*n*) Are the Government considering the desirability of revising the constitution of the Governing Body and the teaching staff and also of improving the general condition of the college?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER):** (*a*) Yes, Rs. 14,400 a year.

(*b*) Yes, Rs. 1,56,000.

(*c*) The constitution of the college is as follows:—

*President.*

(1) Mr P. H. Waddell, District Magistrate.

*Members.*

(2) Babu Chand Mohan Chatterjee.
(3) Babu Tarini Kumar Gupta.
(4) Babu Jagadish Mukherjee.
(5) Babu Sukumar Dutta.
(6) Babu Sarat Chandra Guha.
(7) Babu Nilratan Mukherjee.
(8) Babu Nritya Gopal Mukherjee, Principal (on leave).
(9) Maulvi Mofizuddin Ahmed.
(10) Maulvi Hemayetuddin Ahmed.

*Secretary.*

(11) Babu Kali Prosanna Ghosh, Vice-Principal.

(*d*) Yes. The tension is due to the fact that several members of the College Council are openly showing their sympathy for the non-co-operation movement and have taken a prominent part in organizing steamer strikes, picketing of schools and other breaches of law and order.

(*e*) Eighteen times; six times.

(*f*) No formal report has been submitted but there has been correspondence on the subject.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The report is under consideration.

(*i*) Yes, but it is not known whether he gets a higher salary.

(*j*) Yes, officiating arrangements have been made.

(*k*) Babu Kali Prosanna Ghosh, Vice-Principal.

(*l*) He has passed the B.A. examination and is working in the college since 1889.

(*m*) A statement is placed below.

(*n*) The question is under consideration.

## BRAJO MOHAN COLLEGE, BARISAL.

*Names and qualifications of the teaching staff at the beginning of the current Session (1921-22) with (i) Changes, and (ii) Additions during the last session (1920-21).*

| No. | Name | Degrees with names of Universities, Classes, Honours, etc., with dates (with details as to previous teaching experience). | Present post. | Date of appointment to present post. | Pay or status. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | Rs. | |
| 1. | Babu Nrityalal Mukherjee. | M.A in English, class I (1905), B.A. with Honours in English, 1st Division (1904). | Principal and Professor of English. | 23rd August, 1911. | 370 | Left the College on one year's leave in September last and the Vice-Principal appointed in his place as officiating Principal. Babu Bejoy Ranjan Das Guptas M.A., First in class, I. Group 't, has been working as Professor of English in his place as well as in the place of Professor Mukunda Kishore Chakraverty who resigned his post in October last. Babu Hem Chandra Ghosh, M.A., class II, has been appointed a tutor from the 2nd November to assist the other Professors for teaching English. |
| 2. | Babu Sourindra Kumar Choudhury. | M.A. in English Group A, class III (1907), M.A. in English, Group B class II (1917). | Professor of English. | 18th January, 1918. | 180 | |
| 3. | Babu Mukunda Kishore Chakraverty. | M.A. in English, Group A, class II (1912). | Do. | 24th July, 1918 | 140 | |
| 4. | Babu Devendra Nath Chatterji. | M.A. in English, class II (1916); B.A. with Honours in English, class II (1914), B.L., class II (1919). | Do. | 27th August, 1917. | 125 | |
| 5. | Babu Jitendra Nath Das Gupta. | M.A. in English, class II (1917), B.A., Honours class II (1919). | Do. | 28th August, 1919. | 125 | |
| 6. | Babu Hemanta Kumar Basu. | M.A. in Philosophy, class II (1908); B.A. Honours class II, in Sanskrit and Philosophy (1902). | Professor of Philosophy and Logic. | 2nd March, 1911. | 195 | There was no change during the last session. |

| No. | Name. | Degrees with names of Universities, Classes, Honours, etc., with dates (with details as to previous teaching experience). | Present post. | Date of appointment to present post. | Pay or status. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | Rs. | |
| 7. | Babu Bhabatarn Chakravertty. | M.A. in Philosophy, class II (1911); Sanskrit, Group D, class II (1914), B.A. Honours in Sanskrit. | Professor of Philosophy and Logic. | 6th July, 1914 | 165 | |
| 8. | Babu Gopal Chandra Bhattacharji. | M.A. in Philosophy, class II (1917). | Do. | 31st August, 1918. | 115 | |
| 9. | Babu Chinta Haran Roy. | M.A. in Mathematics, class II (1902) First in order of merit. | Professor of Mathematics. | 3rd July, 1911. | 210 | |
| 10. | Babu Rohini Kumar Bhattacharjee. | M.A. in Mathematics, class I (1915); B.A. Honours in Mathematics (1908). | Do. | 13th August, 1917. | 135 | |
| 11. | Pandit Kamini Kanta Vidyaratna. | Passed Sanskrit Title Examination | Professor of Sanskrit. | 1889 .. | 150 | |
| 12. | Babu Atul Chandra Das Gupta | M.A. in Sanskrit, Group A, class II (1914); B.A. Honours in Sanskrit. | Do. | 13th September, 1915. | 135 | |
| 13 | Babu Kaliprasann Ghosh. | B.A. (1881), Third Division. | Vice-Principal and Professor of History. | 1889 ... | 225 | |
| 14. | Babu Niiratan Mookerji. | M.A. in History, class III (1908). | Professor of History. | 19th July, 1911. | 145 | |
| 15. | Maulvi Abdus Subhan. | Final Madrasah passed and read up to Entrance Standard. | Professor of Arabic and Persian. | 23rd November, 1911. | 110 | |
| 16. | Maulvi Md. Burhanaddin. | Passed the Final Madrasah and the Title Examination, Fakhrul Mahaddisin, sat for I.A. | Do. | 26th November 1917. | 105 | Left the College on one year's leave in July last and Muhammad Syed Ali appointed in his room. |
| 17. | Babu Hemendra Nath Roy. | M.A. in Chemistry, class II (1913); B.A. Honours in Chemistry (1911) | Professor of Chemistry. | 9th July, 1918. | 140 | |
| 18. | Babu Mahendra Nath Gupta. | B.Sc. (Pass Course). | Demonstrator. | 6th February, 1913. | 80 | |

**Death of a political prisoner in Midnapore Central Jail.**

***XLV. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Has the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) received any report as to the cause of the sudden death in the Midnapore Central Jail, of a political prisoner, Babu Gunadhar Hazra, B.SC., the Ex-Head Master of the National School at Mahishadal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the Medical Officer's minute is laid on the table.

*Copy of Medical Officer's minute on the death of non-co-operation prisoner Gunadhar Hazra on 1st May, 1922, referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. XLV.*

"On 26th April, 1922, after morning meal, No. 4138 A, special class convict Gunadhar Hazra, first complained of colicky pain in the stomach and said he was subject to it off and on. He was treated with carminatives and opiates for alleviation of pain.

Next morning (27th April, 1922), the face indicated that he was in pain, which was said to be a little less than the previous day. I noticed slight tympanitis all over the abdomen and a feeling of resistance in the hypogastric region. Urine was said to be scanty and irritable. He had passed a stool of black hard lumps the previous day and none since. Pulse was found fair and temperature 102·2° F. He had been admitted into hospital on that day early in the morning (27th April, 1922), before I came and saw him. Treatment was commenced with an effervescing saline draught and carried on with beladonna, buchu, alkalies, fomentation on the loins, and hot-water bottles on the abdomen.

On the morning of the next day (28th April, 1922), the patient said that he felt a bit better but did not look better. No tenderness anywhere except above the pubis to any marked degree was noticed. Some dull pain all over the abdomen was complained of. Pulse was found soft and quick. Temperature 101·2° F. was recorded in the morning. General condition low. High-coloured urine, two ozs., was drawn off with an india-rubber catheter. Diffused peritonitis seriously interfering with the functions of the kidneys was strongly suspected.

In course of the day no more urine was passed and condition grew worse. The man was found in a critical condition by me after sunset. There was bilious vomiting and practically suppression of urine on the

27th and 28th instant. Stimulants and injections of strychnine and digitalis failed to resuscitate him and death occurred at 8-15 P.M. (28th April, 1922).

At 9-20 A.M. on the 29th April, 1922, I performed the *post mortem* examination of the body under rule 102, Bengal Jail Code, and examined the abdomen only, using the knife myself to avoid touching the susceptibilities of the relatives and friends of the deceased.

The coils of intestine in the pelvic fossa were found matted together in lumps, covered with flakes of lymph and bathed in a whitish thin fluid which turned out to be purulent on examination under the microscope. Higher up, the same inflammatory process had extended in varying degrees. The cæcum and vermiform appendix did not show any signs of original affection. The kidney (right) was congested within, but the capsule was peeled off easily. There was no perforation of the gut anywhere or of the bladder.

I concluded that the death was due to acute suppurative peritonitis, but failed to trace any cause for it.

H. C. MUKHERJEE, *Captain*,

*Medical Officer.*

**Special class prisoners and non-co-operation prisoners.**

***XLVI. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the number of special class prisoners who have suffered from diseases such as small-pox, chicken-pox, influenza, typhoid, etc., in the Alipore Central Jail as well as in the Midnapore Central Jail and other Jails in Bengal where such prisoners are confined?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the names of the non-co-operation prisoners who have died in the jail, mentioning the diseases they died of?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a list of the non-co-operation prisoners who are still ill in the jails with the names of diseases they are suffering from?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of such prisoners on whom disciplinary punishments have been inflicted and the nature of such punishments since December last?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Thirty-five prisoners have suffered from diseases named and other serious diseases as detailed in the statement laid on the Library table.

(*b*) A list is laid on the Library table.

(*c*) The hospital attendance varies from day to day and it would be impossible to give an accurate list at any one time.

(*d*) It is not in the public interest that the names of those guilty of infractions of prison discipline and the punishments awarded to them should be published.

### Principal of Calcutta Madrassa and Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education.

***XLVII. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether any Muhammadan member of the Educational Service has ever held the posts of Principal, Calcutta Madrassa, and of Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a strong feeling in favour of appointing qualified Indians to these posts?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of appointing Indians to these posts?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) This feeling has been brought to notice but there is also a feeling that well qualified and sympathetic European officers should be in charge of the duties of these posts.

(*c*) The matter will be considered when occasion arises.

### Infant Industries of Bengal.

***XLVIII. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any amount of money is earmarked annually for granting subsidies to the infant industries of this Presidency; and

(*ii*) whether any such industrial concerns have approached the Government for any kind of subsidy?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the action by Government in this direction?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Two applications for financial assistance were received in 1921.

(*b*) Financial assistance was not given in either case, as it was not recommended by the Director of Industries.

**Travelling allowances of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in East Bengal.**

***XLIX. Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that recently the Accountant-General, Bengal, has enforced the daily allowance under paragraph 1325 of the Companion to the Civil Service Regulations by issuing retrenchment slips, in the cases of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the Rajshahi Division, instead of allowing them to draw ordinary travelling allowance according to the Civil Service Regulations, which they had been hitherto doing, although the Accountant-General, Bengal, in his letter No. T.M. 93 of the 5th May, 1920, to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, ruled that "the Sub-Inspectors of Schools in East Bengal should be allowed to draw travelling allowance under paragraph 1347 (*b*) of the Bengal Companion to the Civil Service Regulations"?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of ascertaining what led the Accountant-General, Bengal, to enforce paragraph 1325 of the Companion to the Civil Service Regulations in the face of his own ruling permitting the sub-inspectors of schools to draw the travelling allowance under 1347 (*b*) of the Bengal Companion to the Civil Service Regulations?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction by the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division.

(*b*) The Director of Public Instruction is in correspondence with the Accountant-General on the subject.

**Cinchona Plantations.**

***L. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether he is aware of the contents of the recently published report on the Indian trade inquiry conducted by the Imperial Institute dealing with cinchona bark produced in India giving the quantity of quinine respectively produced and required by the Provinces?

(*b*) In the light of this recent report, is the Hon'ble the Member now prepared to modify and reconsider the replies given to my question No. 92 on this drug on the 5th July, 1922?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member now prepared to consider, as recommended by the Imperial Institute, the desirability of extending the cinchona plantations in the near future for the production of the drug equal to the requirements of the province?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member now ready to institute a systematic inquiry by competent authorities, viz., by a Committee consisting of an

officer of the Forest Department, one from the Agricultural Department, and the Quinologist to the Government, to examine the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Sunderban areas, with a view to extending the plantations?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table copies of detailed reports of the investigations of 1907 and of 1918 in search of suitable areas for further extension of the plantations?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state the relative proportion of the drugs found in Java and local barks and also their respective cost of extraction?

(*g*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to ascertain the percentage and cost of extraction in each case.

(*h*) If the Government are not considering the desirability of accepting the conclusion and the suggestions of the authorities of the Imperial Institute with reference to cinchona bark in their recent report on this subject, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*) Government are not aware of the contents of the report.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to (*a*) above these questions do not arise.

(*d*) No. The district of Darjeeling has been explored several times, but sufficiently large areas suitable for plantations have not been found.

The districts of Jalpaiguri and Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Sunderbans are not suitable for cinchona cultivation.

(*e*) Copies are laid on the Library table.

(*f*) The question is not very clear. The figures for the Dutch plantations for the year 1920, as furnished in the latest report received and those for the Bengal plantations for 1921-22, are, however, given below:—

Average percentage of quinine sulphate in Java and Bengal barks

Cinchona Ledgeriana—

Java 6·06; Bengal (Mungpoo) 5·53; Bengal (Munsong) 4·86.

Cinchona Hybrid—

Java 3·93; Bengal (Mungpoo) 3;81; Bengal (Munsong) 3·91.

As regards the cost of extraction, the member is referred to paragraph 5 of the Annual Reports of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory in Bengal, which contain information as regards the cost of manufacture of quinine in Bengal. The cost of manufacture includes the cost of the quinine in the bark as well as the cost of extraction. Information as regards the cost of manufacture of quinine sulphate in Java is not available.

(*g*) Government understand that quinine in Java is manufactured by a private company. In the circumstances, they cannot undertake to ascertain the information.

(*h*) In view of the answer to (*a*) above, this question does not arise at present.

## Prices of food-grains and vegetables.

***LI. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware that the prices for the ordinary food-grains and even vegetables have risen considerably and that the poorer classes of people in the interior of the province are passing through great privations?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of standardising the prices or ameliorating by any other means the condition of the poor?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) The price of common rice, though still much above the pre-war level is at present slightly lower than it was at the same time last year, and the prospects of the coming harvest are excellent. The prices of some of the cheaper food-grains have fallen slightly in the last six months. Owing to the long drought early in the year, the price of vegetables is slightly higher than usual. No report of great privation in the interior arising from general economic conditions has reached Government, nor are the facts such as to give rise to apprehension.

(*b*) No.

## Medical practitioners on field service.

***LII. Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of Medical men of the private practitioners' class from Calcutta who took temporary commissions during the great war;

(*ii*) the total number of Assistant Surgeons in Government employment in Calcutta, who went to the front on temporary commissions in the Indian Medical Service during the great war; and

(*iii*) the substantive pay and allowance of the Assistant Surgeons prior to their taking temporary commissions and the pay and allowance which they got while on active duty as a Member of the Indian Medical Service (T. C.)?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) (*i*) I have no information.

(*ii*) Ten Assistant Surgeons, while employed in Calcutta, volunteered for general military service. Information is not available in the Civil Department as to how many of them actually went to the front.

(*iii*) Grade pay and allowance, if any, attached to the appointment held prior to their taking temporary commissions. Their pay and allowances in the Military Department were as follows:—

(*a*) *While in India.*—As laid down for permanent Lieutenants of the Indian Medical Service with charge allowances on the usual terms.

(*b*) *When on Field service or employed out of India.*—£1 4*s.* per diem, with free rations or compensation in lieu thereof and quarters (the latter only if available, no allowance in lieu thereof being admissible).

## Muhammadan candidates in the Bengal Engineering College and Hostel accommodation therein for Muhammadans.

***LIII. Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether any definite percentage of admissions are reserved for Muhammadan candidates in the Bengal Engineering College Department and in the several branches of its Apprentice Department?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reserving admissions for Moslem students on the same basis as is done in the Calcutta Medical College?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of the hostel arrangements for the Moslem students studying in the different departments of the Bengal Engineering College?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of improving and enlarging the hostel accommodation for Moslems in the same proportion as may be necessary on account of the percentage of annual admission?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The Bengal Engineering College comprises—(*i*) the Civil Engineer classes which are affiliated up to the B. E. standard of the Calcutta University, (*ii*) the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering classes, and (*iii*) the Mining classes. The number of annual admissions to the first-year class is restricted to 40 in the case of Civil Engineer classes, and to 85 in the case of the other two classes taken together, the exact number to be admitted to each being determined by the Principal. There are no rules reserving any places for Muhammadan students who are treated on equal terms with students of other denominations in the matter of admission.

(*b*) The number of regular students admitted to the Calcutta Medical College each year is generally 120 and one-fourth of the total number admitted has to be Muhammadans. The applications from Muhammadan students desirous of joining the Bengal Engineering College have hitherto been so few that no rule of the kind has been considered necessary. The matter will be considered as soon as circumstances require.

(*c*) There is a furnished barrack for 16 Moslem students who make their own arrangements for messing, Government paying for the expenses of employing a cook and one other servant and also paying boarding stipends to Moslem students on a sliding scale. The value of the stipend is Rs. 6 a month if there is only one Moslem student, but this is reduced as the number of Moslem students increases and it is only Rs. 2 *per mensem* if there are more than 12 such students.

(*d*) Government will be prepared to consider the question of improving and enlarging the existing hostel accommodation for Moslems if it is found to be defective or insanitary and if the Governing Body of the College moves the Government in the matter.

## Unstarred Questions

### (answers to which were laid on the table).

### Temporary piece-workers of Secretariat Press.

**145. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the reasons for not following the uniform procedure and time-limit in making the temporary piece-employees of the Bengal Secretariat Press permanent?

(*b*) What consideration, if any, will be given to the temporary piece-employees who put in from five to thirty years' service?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the temporary piece-workers will get any remuneration in the shape of pension, gratuity, bonus or such when rendered invalid by disease or accident?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state under whose orders, and why, the payment for working time-work for tiffin has been stopped?

(*e*) What is the criterion for a person being marked "regular" or "irregular" in attendance, taking into consideration absences from work on medical certificate, or without medical certificate?

(*f*) Are all the temporary piece-employees who have been working from 5 to 30 years classed as "irregular"?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) The expression "uniform procedure and time-limit" is not understood. Promotions from the temporary to the permanent piece establishment are governed by rule 38 of the rules for the management of the Printing Department which is as follows:—

"38. Men will be selected for promotion from the temporary to the permanent establishment on account of their qualifications, regular attendance, general good conduct, and length of service on the temporary establishment. Except on special grounds, no man above the age of 30 years will be admitted directly to the permanent establishment."

(*b*) There are no men on the temporary piece establishment who have been employed for 30 years continuously. In making promotions from the temporary to the permanent piece establishment the cases of those men who have been longest on the temporary establishment are examined first in accordance with rule 38 quoted above. It is open for a man with a bad record of attendance or other disqualifications to improve, in which case he may be selected for promotion later on.

(*c*) Under the recent orders of the Government of India, piece-employees on the permanent establishment are eligible for pension provided they have put in 25 years' continuous and approved service, whether such service be classified as permanent or temporary. Temporary piece-employees with less than 25 years' service are not eligible for invalid pension, but they may be granted wound pensions or gratuities in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations.

(*d*) Payment for the tiffin hour when engaged on hour-work has not been stopped.

(*e*) A man is considered "irregular" who is frequently absent from work. When a proper medical certificate is submitted the period of absence is left out of consideration.

(*f*) Any men who have been passed over for promotion to the permanent piece establishment because of frequent absences may be considered as irregular, *vide* answer to (*b*).

### Educational services below Bengal Educational Service.

**146. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Government propose to improve the educational services below the Bengal Educational Service in the following manner, namely:—

(*i*) by filling up 50 per cent. of the posts of lecturers by men selected from among the teachers of high qualifications and long experience;

(*ii*) by placing 25 per cent. of English teachers in the selection grade instead of 11 per cent; and

(*iii*) by granting the benefit of the time-scale of pay to all officers according to the length of their service in the appointments concerned?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) This is not comtemplated though teachers are sometimes selected for these appointments.

(*ii*) The selection grade referred to is apparently the cadre of assistant head masters of high schools. There is one such post in each school: it is not contemplated to add to the number or to create other selection grade posts in schools.

(*iii*) This has not been found feasible and it is not proposed to reopen the matter.

### Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.

**147. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether the Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Circle No. 2, Calcutta, has made the inquiry and submitted his report contemplated in answers to my unstarred questions No. 81 and No. 57 for the meetings of the 23rd November, 1921, and 19th January, 1922, respectively?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the report (Letters No. 181 of 10th February, 1922, and No. 476 dated 6th May, 1922), together with a copy of the memorial to which the report refers, are laid on the Library table.

### Pargiter's History of the Sunderbans.

**148. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether all the Government publications and specially such books as Mr. Pargiter's History of the Sunderbans, are generally printed and reprinted in response to a demand from the general public?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that Mr. Pargiter's book deals with a period of great complexity and that the terms of many of the Sunderban settlements, dealt with by it, have not as yet expired?

(*c*) What was the necessity of publishing the later Revenue History of the Sunderbans from 1870 and onwards by Mr. Ascoli?

(*d*) How was the demand for it ascertained?

(*e*) How many copies of Mr. Ascoli's History of the Sunderbans have been sold up to date?

(*f*) Is it a fact that it is only to bring Mr. Pargiter's Revenue History of the Sunderbans from 1765 to 1870 up to date that Mr. Ascoli's later history was published?

(*g*) If so, what reasons are there for considering that there is no necessity to reprint and republish Mr. Pargiter's earlier history of the Sunderbans?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Mr. Pargiter's History contains an account of the Sunderbans for the period 1765 to 1870. Subsequent to this, different systems of administration were adopted for the Sunderbans. Much time and energy had to be wasted in order to get an idea of the state of affairs from the mass of old correspondence and documents which lay scattered in the record-rooms of different revenue offices. To remove this inconvenience and to renew the utility of Mr. Pargiter's work, it was considered advisable to bring it up to date.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

(*e*) Eight copies.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) There are sufficient copies for the use of the officers of Government, and there is practically no public demand for it.

### Madaripur bil route canal.

**149. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the sluice-gates on the side of the Madaripur bil route canal were kept open during the last two months;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the *aus* crop, almost wholly, and the *aman* crop, partially, have been damaged by inundation in the area north of the canal due to the insufficient passage for water;

(*iii*) whether recently there has been a breach causing a violent flow of water towards the south; and

(*iv*) whether it is correct that the *aus* and *aman* crops of the area south of the canal were never damaged, the water level being much lower than that of the canal and the northern area?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*i*) The sluice-gates on the side of the Madaripur bil route were kept always open up to and including the 22nd July when it became absolutely necessary to close the gates to ensure the safety of the Manikdah entrance.

(*ii*) It is not a fact that the *aus* crops have been almost wholly, and the *aman* crop partially, damaged by inundation in the area north of the canal due to the insufficient passage for water.

(*iii*) There has been no breach but a cut was made by the villagers in the sixth mile of the embankment on the morning of the 19th July.

(*iv*) It may generally be stated that the *aus* and *aman* crops of the area south of the canal are not damaged in years of ordinary flood. The water level is a little lower than that of the canal.

## Reorganisation of Educational Services.

**150. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he received from a deputation sent by the All-Bengal Government School Teachers' Association on the 10th April, 1922, a written statement setting forth the grievances of the different classes of teachers under the recent reorganisation?

(*b*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) A deputation led by Babu Bidhu Bhusan Mukharji waited upon the Minister at Dacca on the date mentioned. A copy of the proceedings is laid upon the table. There were comparatively few officers who did not immediately receive an increase in pay of 33 per cent. with six months retrospective effect and the total salary bill of the service has nearly doubled so there could hardly be any grievance in the majority of cases.

(*b*) It is not proposed to reconsider the reorganisation scheme as a whole, but the readjustment of a few anomalous cases will be considered by the Director of Public Instruction as opportunity offers.

*Copy of proceedings referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 150.*

A deputation led by Babu Bidhu Bhusan Mukharji and three other members of the Subordinate Educational Service waited upon the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education on the 10th April, 1922, at 8-30 A.M., at the Ramna Circuit House, Dacca.

Mr. Wordsworth introduced the deputation to the Hon'ble Minister.

The deputation submitted a note to the Hon'ble Minister. Mr. Wordsworth discussed with the deputation at length all the points that were laid down in the note.

The Hon'ble Minister in his reply said that although he sympathised with the members of the Subordinate Educational Service, he was afraid it was not possible to start another reorganisation on the basis of the suggestion of the deputation. He remarked that the scheme of the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Service had been before the old Government and the Government of India for many years. Nothing tangible, however, was done in the past. Soon after his assumption of office he took up this question and the reorganisation was now an accomplished fact. There can be no doubt that by the reorganisation the rank and file of the service had benefited considerably. He observed that it was quite possible that in reorganising a service consisting of several thousand members and divided into a different number of grades, anomalies might have crept in here and there. There might also be causes for dissatisfaction legitimate or otherwise, with regard to individuals or groups of individuals. It was not possible, however, to re-examine the reorganisation although there were cases of individual injustice or injustice to groups of individuals; but that he would be prepared to re-examine such cases provided such re-examination did not touch the general scheme of the sanctioned reorganisation. He observed further that the total salary bill of the reorganised service represented an ultimate increase of nearly hundred per cent. and that in his opinion it was a sure index that the service as a whole had benefited considerably.

As regards the suggestion that the total period of the service of each individual member should have been taken into account in counting increments, he pointed out that at one time he intended to follow this procedure, but practically audit difficulties stood in his way. It was pointed out that if that procedure were followed then it would have been necessary to examine each individual case. Considering the total number of officers concerned and the length of the service, such an attempt would have meant postponement of the reorganisation for many more months; and in view of the financial difficulties it might have ultimately meant postponement of the reorganisation for years. After taking into account these audit difficulties he decided upon the flat rate of increment embodied in the resolution. This flat rate did not mean any financial advantage to Government taking the service as a whole. Although it was quite true that those members who had put in long service had benefited less by this flat rate, it was equally true that a considerable number of members of the service benefited more by this arrangement. He regretted that it was not possible to go back on this decision.

As regards teachers in Normal Schools, senior pandits and maulvis who were graduates, he assured the deputation that he would be inclined to look up these cases as cases of individual hardship and he

would ask Mr. Wordsworth to go into this question and give it his careful and sympathetic consideration.

In conclusion, he reminded the deputation that many of the anomalies would disappear in course of time and the main question was improvement of the service as a whole and not whether the reorganisation as such could be criticised here and there. He again assured the deputation that he would be prepared to consider individual cases of hardship.

The deputation thanked the Hon'ble Minister for his kind assurances and his courteous and sympathetic attitude towards the deputation.

### Meeting of Syndicate on "Id" day.

**151. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University held a meeting on the *Id-uz-Zuha* day, viz., on the 4th August last which was a gazetted holiday; and

(*ii*) whether the offices of the University were open on that day either wholly or partially?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*i*) The University reports that a meeting of the Syndicate was held on the 4th August, 1922. Meetings of the Syndicate are often held on gazetted holidays.

(*ii*) The offices of the University were closed on that day. Only some assistants and menials were in attendance and they were paid a special allowance in accordance with a prescribed scale.

### Non-sittings of Bengal Legislative Council on Saturdays and ceremonial occasions.

**152. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state what were the amounts paid to the mufassal members of the Bengal Legislative Council month by month, during its sessions, as travelling allowances for not holding sittings of the Council on Saturdays, during the year 1921 and from January till 31st March, 1922?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many mufassal members of the Legislative Council went home on Saturdays to return again on Mondays for the sitting of the Council since its inauguration till 31st March, 1922, and the names of such members, month by month?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that much of the non-official business cannot be transacted owing to not continuing the sitting of the Council on Saturdays and this entails financial loss to the Government in the shape of additional travelling allowances to the mufassal members?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state for how many days since the inauguration of the present Council, its sessions could not be held owing to ceremonial occasions and will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state in detail what were these occasions with their dates?

**MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) The question is not fully understood. If the member means to ask what was the amount spent by members owing to travelling allowances for week-end journeys over and above the amount that would have been spent if the members had stayed in Calcutta and drawn residential allwance, the figure for the period April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922, is Rs. 22,000.

(*b*) The member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 151 of the last July session giving the number for the period up to 31st March, 1922.

(*c*) The question of not sitting on Saturdays, except in cases of necessity, follows the time-honoured custom of the House of Commons. The attitude of Government in regard to travelling allowance for week-end journeys will be explained in the debate on the resolutions on this subject.

(*b*) Three days, i.e., the 25th, 27th and 28th March, 1922, on account of the arrival of His Excellency, the present Governor of Bengal.

## Payment of Chaukidars.

**153. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Lord Cornwallis, some time Governor-General of India, made a provision by regulations, that the wages of watchmen should be met from the stamp duties?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, what is the reason why the pay of chaukidars are not met from stamp duties?

(*c*) What is the reason for the differential treatment whereby in municipal areas the expense of watchmen is met by the Government, while in rural areas it is met by direct taxation from the people?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Various regulations from 1793 onwards were made regarding village watchmen and finally the Village Chaukidari Act of 1870 was passed. In municipal areas no watchmen in addition to the regular police are maintained. The member is referred to the published literature on the history of the village police.

### Vaccination.

**154. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware of a pamphlet called "Vaccination and its Fallacy" published by the Humanitarian Society of Bombay;

(*ii*) whether he has taken any expert opinion on the soundness of the grounds advanced in that pamphlet;

(*iii*) if so, what is that opinion;

(*iv*) whether he is aware that some sections of the Muhammadan community are strongly against the system of vaccination;

(*v*) whether the Government have considered that the pamphlet is likely to stand in the way of the proper operation of the Vaccination Act; and

(*vi*) The steps the Government are taking to stop the spread of anti-vaccination views?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*i*) No.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The question does not arise.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) The question does not arise.

(*vi*) Illustrated posters and pamphlets are issued when a report of an epidemic of small-pox is received. The Minister is informed that this action has proved very effective in disarming objections to vaccination.

### Thefts and dacoities on Howrah-Burdwan chord line.

**155. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware of the increase of railway thefts and motor and other dacoities at Kamarkundu and other railway stations on the Howrah-Burdwan chord line?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of making a complete list of upcountrymen employed in the Traffic and Permanent Way Department all over the said line and also of their friends, relations and dependants living with them together with the previous character and record of these men from the respective police-stations from which they have come?

**Th Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) No. The number of cases of thefts during the first six months of this year within the jurisdiction of Chandanpur railway police-station in which practically the whole of the Howrah-Burdwan chord line lies is 26. The figures for the previous three years were 48, 54 and 42. No motor or other dacoities occurred at any of the stations on the line either this year or last.

(*b*) This does not arise.

**Reorganisation of Press and Forms Department.**

**156. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will he Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue ails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the paid employees of the Press and Forms Department petitioned the Government in 1920 for revised rates of pay as sanctioned in the Government of India Resolution No. A.-31, dated the 15th July, 1920, and the Government of Bengal order No. 2678 F., dated the 27th October, 1920;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that no reply has yet been received by them;

(*iii*) whether the said employees memorialised His Excellency the Governor in January, 1922, to which no reply has yet been received;

(*iv*) whether it is true that the said employees were verbally informed during the strike in 1920 by the officiating Press and Forms Manager, Bengal, and the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, and also by the then Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal, that revised rates of pay and better treatment would be extended to them in consideration of their loyalty and condition of the Jail services if they remained at their posts and did not join the strike; and

(*v*) whether the paid employees of the Press and Forms Department did not join the strike of 1920?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it under contemplation to give the same rates of pay from the same e to the paid employees of the Press and Forms Department as has n given in other Government Presses?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*), (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) The swers are in the affirmative.

(*iv*) No such promise was made. It was understood that the rates pay of the paid staff employed in the Jail Press would be revised on lines of those sanctioned for other Government Presses.

(*v*) No. They did not join the strike.

(*b*) The whole question of the reorganisation of the Press and Forms partment is under consideration.

**Choking up of Dankunni canal.**

**157. Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government re that there is a water channel passing through the villages of

Titagarh and Charnock and connecting the Dankuni *bil* with the river Ganges?

(*b*) Is he also aware that there are jute mills and rice mills on both sides of the said water channel?

(*c*) Is he also aware that the Empire Jute Mill, Co., Ltd., and Kelvin Jute Mill, Co., Ltd., have filled up portions of the said channel especially near the mouth of the channel with coal cinders thereby stopping the flow of the water of the channel into the Ganges and causing stagnation of water in the channel and the *bil*?

(*d*) Is he also aware that the Kelvin Jute Mill, Co., Ltd., have constructed a *pucca* wall on a portion of the said channel, thereby narrowing the width of the channel?

(*e*) Is he also aware that owing to the channel being choked near the Ganges, the offensive water from the rice mills on both sides of the channel is accumulating in the channel endangering the health of the people inhabiting the locality?

(*f*) Is it a fact that representations have been sent to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government and other officers in connection with this matter?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to remove the choking of the said water channel with coal cinders and having the obstruction raised on it by the mill removed?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Minister has no information on these points.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) The question of improving this khal has engaged the attention of Government for a considerable time. It has been inspected by Government officers on several occasions and the question of bringing it within the scope first, of the Nawi Sunthi scheme, and subsequently of the Titagarh sewerage scheme has been examined.

Both these proposals were held to be impracticable. More recently the Minister for Local Self-Government presided over a conference of persons representing the different interests concerned in the hope of reaching a settlement. A scheme for the improvement of the khal at a cost of Rs. 30,000 has been framed and negotiations regarding the apportionment of the cost are now in progress.

### Infant and child mortality.

**158. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the statistics

of infant mortality during the last ten years and the number of boys and girls up to the age of five who died during the same period in Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that infant mortality is heavy in Bengal?

(*c*) If so, what steps have been taken or are being taken by the Government to mitigate the mortality ?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a dearth of midwives in the rural districts of this presidency?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of teaching the *dhais* or the village midwives the use of anti-septic methods?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Infant mortality is undoubtedly high in Bengal.

(*c*) and (*d*) In 1919, Government appointed a committee of ladies and gentlemen who had medical qualifications or had taken any special interest in the subject to advise on the measures to be taken to promote child welfare and reduce infantile mortality. Their reports were received in 1921. Among other recommendations they advocated the education of *dhais* or untrained midwives. Government accepted this recommendation, holding that it would be idle to attempt to replace the *dhai* by a more highly-paid and more highly qualified agency such as, properly certificated midwives. Inquiries were accordingly made in all parts of the Presidency to ascertain where training centres might be started with the co-operation of the local authorities and local medical practitioners. As an experimental measure, Government propose, in the current financial year, to assist in the inauguration of eight local centres where village *dhais* may receive some elementary training in midwifery. The idea is that the scheme should be initiated by holding classes of about 20 to 25 pupils at which 24 lectures will be delivered by qualified medical practitioners in the course of two terms held between September and April. Each *dhai* pupil would be given gratis a bag containing such articles as a cake of soap, a packet of boric cotton, a pair of scissors, a nail brush, etc., and at the expiry of the course a certificate would be granted stating that the *dhai* had attended a course of lectures on elementary midwifery. The Local Self-Government Department has made a provision of Rs. 2,000 for this purpose in the August supplementary estimates and if this provision is voted by the Council, the Minister proposes to apportion this sum equally into grants of Rs. 250 among selected District Boards which are willing to arrange for classes of instruction as described, and in accordance with the curriculum to be prescribed by the Public Health Department. District Boards have already been asked to submit their proposals in order that effect may be given to the scheme at once, if the money is voted by the Council.

(*d*) The Minister understands that the facts are as stated.

*Statement referred to in clause (a) of unstarred question No. 158, showing infant and child mortality in Bengal during the decennium 1912-21.*

| Years. | Infant mortality, i.e., within 1st year of life. | Number of deaths of boys up to the age of five years. | Number of deaths of girls up to the age of five years. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1912 ... ... | 339,779 | 104,456 | 97,996 |
| 1913 ... ... | 320,662 | 102,910 | 97,725 |
| 1914 ... ... | 340,012 | 109,285 | 104,843 |
| 1915 ... ... | 316,600 | 109,423 | 104,533 |
| 1916 ... ... | 282,407 | 80 003 | 73,955 |
| 1917 ... ... | 300,514 | 82,482 | 79,301 |
| 1918 ... ... | 339,649 | 116,550 | 110,867 |
| 1919 ... ... | 284,298 | 110,485 | 106,690 |
| 1920 ... ... | 282,090 | 95,835 | 93,744 |
| 1921 ... ... | 268,162 | 89,778 | 87,918 |

## Union Courts.

**159. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of union boards, naming their respective districts, which have been given the power of union courts in Bengal;

(*ii*) the principles under which this power is given to union boards?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*i*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*ii*) Union courts are established in those unions which are sufficiently advanced for this development, in accordance with the recommendations of the local officers (including District Judges) and of the Local Self-Government Department.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 159, clause (i), showing the number of Union Boards which contain Union Courts.*

Number of Union Boards containing Union Courts—

Dacca District—49.
Tippera District—5.
Hooghly District—1.

**Promotion of Judicial officers.**

**160. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the principle regulating the promotion of the provincial judicial officers, such as, Munsifs and Sub-Judges?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the promotion of judicial officers is dependent upon the standard of speedy despatch of cases?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) The promotion of officers of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) in so far as it is not governed by the automatic operation of the time-scale, is regulated by considerations of their efficiency and seniority.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

**Officiating munsifs.**

**161. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) With reference to the unstarred question No. 166 asked by me on the 12th July last, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a list of the officiating Munsifs who have completed three years of actual service but are still drawing a salary of Rs. 300?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to relieve any of those officers during the ensuing Puja vacation commencing on the 20th September next?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state their names?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the savings effected by relieving, during the Puja vacation of 1921, those of these officers, who had, before that Puja vacation, completed 2 years of actual service?

(*e*) Is it a fact that some of the Civil Courts in Bengal are going without Munsifs on account of the grant of leave to permanent officers and the not filling up of the leave vacancies?

(*f*) Is it also a fact that at present there are two vacancies in the existing cadre of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial)?

(*g*) Is it a fact that these two vacancies are not being filled up in order to effect a saving of Rs. 100 per month at the rate of Rs. 50 for every vacancy on account of increase of pay from Rs. 300 to Rs. 350 consequent on confirmation?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table (Statement A).

(*b*) All officiating Munsifs, except those who are acting in permanent or semi-permanent vacancies, will be relieved of their appointments on the eve of the ensuing civil court vacation.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the Library table (Statement B).

(*d*) A statement is laid on the Library table (Statement C).

(*e*) Leave vacancies are filled only when the District Judges consider the appointment of substitutes necessary. Leave vacancies sometimes remain unfilled when no substitutes are asked for, but such cases are not common.

(*f*) There is only one vacancy consequent on the confirmation of Mr. P. N. Roy Chaudhuri, as a District Judge.

(*g*) No. The confirmation of Mr. P. N. Roy Chaudhuri was notified on the 26th July, 1922, and the vacancy will be filled up in due course.

### Reorganisation of Subordinate Educational Service.

**162. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that past service was counted in determining the pay of an officer of the Provincial Educational Service when the time-scale system was introduced?

(*b*) Was the same principle adopted in determining the pay of an officer of the Subordinate Educational Service when it was reorganized?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this differential treatment?

(*d*) Is it true that on account of this differentiation many officers of the Subordinate Educational Service will suffer as they will not be able to reach within 25 years of their service, the maximum of the scales on which they have been placed?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of revising the system so that all such officers as will not be able to draw the maximum of the scales on which they are placed may be able to do so?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Yes, with certain restrictions.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Amongst other reasons this was done partly in the interest of the service as a whole and partly for audit reasons. The Subordinate Educational Service consists of about 2,000 officers divided into 11 groups as against only about 200 officers in the Bengal Educational Service forming one compact service. The application of the rule of time-scale according to the length of service would have involved preparation of a history sheet of each one of about 2,000 officers divided

in 11 groups, firstly by the Education Department, and then scrutiny by two other Departments, *e.g.*, the Finance and the Accountant-General's Department. This procedure would have involved such delay that it would not have been possible to reorganise the service during the last official year and it is doubtful if the work could be completed even to-day. The service as a whole did not lose financially by this arrangement and in these circumstances the alleged differential treatment was adopted in the interests of the service itself.

(*d*) This is only partly true as length of service is not the only determining factor in a time-scale service with efficiency bars, but in any case each officer benefited considerably as compared with his position under the old system inasmuch as he got an immediate increase of one-third of his salary with retrospective effect from September, 1921.

(*e*) No further revision is in contemplation.

## Non-official Business.

### Adjournment of Council.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** In the absence of Maulvi Fazl-ul-Haq, may I have your permission to move an adjournment of this Council for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the reported flogging of some political prisoners in the Barisal jail and the feeling created thereby in the public mind?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** Is there any objection to the adjournment of the Council to allow this matter being discussed?

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I object to the adjournment. We have got a number of resolutions and we should not adjourn to discuss this matter which I do not consider to be of such public importance as to take precedence of our resolutions.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Then, objection having been taken, I must ask those members who support the motion for adjournment being taken kindly to rise in their places.

Thirty-four members having risen, the Deputy-President declared that the member had the leave of the House, as provided by the rules, and fixed 4-40 P.M. for the discussion of the matter.

## Resolutions

**(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest.)**

### Travelling and Residential Allowances of Members.

**Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** I move that " this Council recommends to the Government that a committee composed of three Calcutta members and three mufassal members of this Council, under the presidency of the Hon'ble the Member in charge, be appointed to inquire and report on the following points:—

(*1*) Whether members should be allowed to charge halting allowances, if they have a regular place of residence in Calcutta and if they reside in such place?

(*2*) Whether members should be allowed to draw travelling allowance when travelling between their place of residence in the mufassal and Calcutta, when such place of residence is not within their constituencies?

(*3*) Whether rules should now be framed to check the abuses likely to arise from the present system of payment, and, if so, to suggest such rules?"

I am extremely pained to perform the unpleasant task of moving this resolution, but the storm of indignation sweeping over the province on the publication of the statement regarding our travelling and halting allowances and the grave charges levelled against some of us, have compelled me, in the interest of our good name, to demand a thorough and impartial inquiry into the matter. Here, in this sanctuary of our political life, we, the representatives of the people, come to deliberate over the destiny of the people, our probity should be beyond suspicion; the province is passing through extreme financial stringency necessitating an all-round retrenchment to find money for the departments which are of vital importance to the people.

It is not only desirable, but our duty too, to take as little as possible from the tax-payer's money for our personal needs. We clamour for economy on the part of the Government and hardly any session in the brief span of the new Council's life has passed, when there were not a series of resolutions to that effect; we must practice ourselves what we preach or the whole thing becomes a farce. If, then, it is found that we are very much particular on our supposed dues prescribed on a lavish scale and that also by irregular and questionable means, the people can grudge and murmur, I am afraid they are not without justification.

The statement published by the Government in reply to Mr. Nasker's interpellation, has come as a surprise to most of our countrymen. They knew many hon'ble members have got their own regular and habitual residences in Calcutta, but they find that these gentlemen still charge

halting allowances for the Council period. Again it is even known that some of them habitually reside in Calcutta, but the statement would show, as if they had removed to their native places and constituencies from which they come to attend the Council on every occasion. This is a serious reflection to make, but the figures published and the known facts of the case make it unavoidable. There is another point which I wish to refer to. Members hailing from same or equally distant stations and attending very nearly the same number of sittings present widely different bills for their travelling allowances. Then, lastly, there is an astounding revelation in connection with the week-end trips of some of the members. The Hon'ble the Member in charge has said that the durations of the stay in their respective stations vary from 22 to 3 hours and these cost the taxpayer four first class fares for each, less the halting allowances in some cases.

I do not know how the Hon'ble the Member has made these calculations, but I can say that in some cases at least, such feats are physically impossible. Our conception of distance is to be modified and that of time annihilated, if such a member, with the existing methods of communications, can perform such a feat and attend Council meetings regularly. It is no wonder, therefore, that critics will accuse us of devising ingenious methods to profit at the expense of the people, and that the enemies of Reforms use not very complimentary language about us.

The charge is an extremely grave one; it demands an inquiry and not only on the way how the travelling and halting allowances are ordinarily drawn but also how these have been drawn by the members in the past. Rules should also, if possible, be formed to regulate the matter in future. I admit that there is nothing more demoralising than travelling allowances. The story of its abuse is very much the same all the world over. Cases have been frequently found, when men otherwise of unimpeachable and sterling character have succumbed to this weakness. It is quite possible that some of us yielded to the temptation, but there must be a limit. It is necessary to make rules to protect us from ourselves. It would have been well if we were given a chance to rectify our methods, but the matter has advanced too far; it is not desirable in the interest of the good name and prestige of the House to hush up what appears to be a huge scandal. Hence I want the inquiry asked for and commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** As I have an amendment to an analogous resolution I do not press this amendment and I beg leave to withdraw it.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That in the resolution of Babu Fanindralal De, for the words 'three Calcutta members and three mufassal' the word 'seven' be substituted."

**Mr. D. C. GHOSE:** In addition to the inquiries which the mover of the resolution recommends that the committee should make, I ask that it should be considered whether a rule regarding travelling allowances similar to the one which obtains in the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly should not be adopted here. The rule that I ask the committee to consider is in these terms: For intermediate absences from Delhi or Simla lasting for less than 15 days, a member will be entitled to draw either a single first class fare to his station and back or his daily allowance for the period of absence, whichever is less. For absences of the duration of 15 days or more, no allowance of any kind will be admissible. The amendment that I beg to move is this: "and in particular to inquire whether members should be entitled to draw the usual travelling allowance in the case of week-end journeys or whether rules should not be framed in accordance with the rules governing the travelling allowance and residential allowance of members of the Central Legislatures whereby payment of single fares is allowd for journeys undertaken during a session, and in certain cases where travelling allowance is altogether prohibited."

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I formally move the resolution which stands in my name. It runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed, consisting of seven elected members of the Council, with the Hon'ble the Member in charge as President, to inquire into the travelling allowance bills that have been drawn by members of this Council since its inauguration, and to submit a detailed report to the Council at an early date, as to its findings; and also to make any suggestions which they may think fit as regards the whole question of travelling and residential allowances of members."

This resolution is more comprehensive than that of my friend, Babu Fanindralal De, or the amendment which has just been moved by Mr. D. C. Ghose. You all know that the facts disclosed, in reply to the starred and unstarred questions of Babu Hem Chandra Nasker during the last session of the Council regarding travelling allowances of members, have stirred the people of Bengal from one end to the other and apparently no uglier disclosure has come out about public affairs for many years. Imputations have been made not only once but repeatedly in the public press that public money is being fraudulently cheated away by some of their trusted representatives in this Council.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** I rise to a point of order.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You need not make these personal imputations.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I am not making these imputations myself, but these have been made in the newspapers.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You might avoid quoting them.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** This is an allegation which cannot be hushed over in silence by any sensible man who means to uphold the best traditions of this Council. For the alleged misconduct of a few amongst us, the whole Council is being taken to task. It is, therefore, that after giving this matter my anxious attention and best thought I have come to only one conclusion that the whole matter should on no account be hushed up, but should be scrutinised and threshed out with as much thoroughness as possible and this will enable us to regain our lost prestige, dignity and honour. I hope and believe that much of the remarks in the public press about this point are not well-founded and are exaggerated; but if the allegation that some members did make out travelling allowance bills without moving an inch outside Calcutta be true, and I know one member—I do not like to name him—who is returned from Calcutta, did make out travelling allowance bills for coming from the mufassal——

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Name him.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I can name him.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I rise to a point of order. This is a personal charge and all personal remarks should be avoided.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You should avoid these personal references.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I will not hesitate to ask the Government to mete out to them condign punishment according to the law of the land. I refrain from mentioning any name for the obvious reason that I do not only keep an open mind, but still believe in the honesty of my colleagues and it is also my firm conviction that all of us will come out triumphant from this ordeal.

It is no argument to say that such and such members of such and such service are also open to question in this respect. Nor is it an argument to say that Calcutta members of the Legislative Council who have got independent sources of income cannot realise the difficulties under which the mufassal members labour. These arguments, even if true, do not entitle any one to commit crimes nor would they be justified in their action if they swerve from the right path. Furthermore, the members of the Legislative Council have oftentimes the unpleasant duty of criticising the Government, the Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble Ministers, the University and other public bodies who do not come up to their expectations or where they think that things are not as they ought to be.

We must all be scrupulously honest. It has been said by many of my friends in the lobby and also in this Council that it is not good to wash dirty linen before the public. I fully realise that. I am extremely grieved to bring this resolution before this Council with no other motive than to show to the public that we intend to be honest and that not a pice has been earned fraudulently. That is the motive with which I have brought this resolution. If you want to shelve the whole question, what will the public say? The public will say that members of this Council have got nothing to say against the imputations and that will indirectly imply that we are really as dishonest as the papers have painted us. This is the only object with which I have brought this resolution before you.

With these few remarks, I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this Council.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** In going through my amendment I find that it might be misunderstood, so with your permission I would like to omit the words "inquire into and" in line 3.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I do not think that there can be any objection to this change being made and I allow it.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I beg to move by way of amendment, that the resolution of Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra do take the following form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed consisting of seven members of the Council, with the Hon'ble the Member in charge as President, to make any suggestions which they may think fit as regards the whole question of travelling and residential allowances of members of this Council."

The question of travelling and residential allowances of the members of this Council seems to have attracted an amount of public attention which I should say is out of all proportion to the importance of the subject. Much of this agitation is due to an ignorance of the existing rules and conditions. Ill-informed criticisms and in some cases most pernicious insinuations made by a section of the press have, however, given this matter a colouring which is really most deplorable. Personally speaking, I cannot believe that any of us can be guilty of want of veracity in such a trifling matter and so I do not propose to add to the bitterness of the controversy by discussing those base, means, and unfounded charges that have been brought against us as a body. But I must protest against the soft impeachment of my friend, Mr. De, who is by nature so genial and good humoured. Being one of us I did expect a better understanding of the situation from him. I am pained to see that he should have thought it fit to adopt a lofty air and admonish us, as if from the pulpit, by saying that some of us might have

succumbed to temptations and perpetrated a fraud on the Government by submitting false bills. If he or our honest friend, Dr. Moitra, knew of any such instance, it would have been far better and more manly on their part to point out the culprit and that not as a privileged speaker in this Chamber but outside it where both the accuser and the accused might have an equal chance of vindicating their honour.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** The *Bengalee* and other newspapers published this news.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** These base insinuations and idle and mischievous bombast hardly befit a responsible member of the Council.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I rise to a point of order. Is the member justified in using the words "base insinuations and idle and mischievous bombast."

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think that you ought to withdraw.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Which am I to withdraw?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You ought to withdraw the words "idle and mischievous bombast."

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I withdraw them and say that the base insinuations hardly befit a responsible member of the Council.

**Mr. D. C. GHOSE:** I rise to a point of order. Are these words objected to as unparliamentary?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think that they ought not to be used in this Council.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** May I ask for information whether the speaker has been allowed to use the words "base insinuations" and simply to withdraw the words "idle and mischievous bombast"?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Kumar Sahib, you had better go on, please.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** But as public feeling has been roused, I think it is necessary to allay it and as the modern panacea for all such disorders of the body-politic is thought to be the appointment of a committee, I welcome the suggestion of the previous speakers to appoint such a committee. I am, however, not inclined to limit its scope in the way suggested by Mr. De, nor do I like his idea of making an invidious distinction between Calcutta and mufassal

nembers. Coming to Dr. Moitra's resolution, I confess that it has been a bit of surprise to me. I never expected this from a man cognizant of the rules, least of all a member of the Council. He should at least know that as the Government cannot go inquiring into as to the actual expenses of each and every member, and have a special branch of the Investigation Department drafted for spying on the members, the Government must fix a standard to work upon. That standard was fixed and so long as it is there, the members are fully entitled to draw the allowances according to that standard. If it is thought that the country is too poor to afford such travelling and halting allowances to its representatives, change the rules by all means, but, before that, one has no right to join in that mocking howl. My esteemed friend proposes to inquire into the correctness or otherwise of all travelling bills submitted by the members of the Council since its inaugurating I wonder whether the learned doctor wants us to take him seriously or not. A great eye specialist he might be, but I have doubts about his own vision.

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY**: Is not that personal?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think that it is personal.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I thought that it was complimentary to say " great eye specialist " (Laughter.)

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** I do not like that compliment.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I really fail to understand what great good he wants to achieve by such a ridiculous inquiry. The bills are all signed and certified as correct by the members submitting them. Is his committee going to take evidence on each and every item billed for by every individual member and find out after such sifting inquiry as to where they have erred. If the committee means to do that, I do not think the work can be finished during the life-time of this Council and the travelling and halting expenses of that very committee unless the members propose to bear their own expenses which would amount to another good round sum. For they shall have to go to every mufassal station and inquire of the members of the family and neighbours as to when a particular member started from home, when he came back, why he came, how long he stayed, what class he travelled and what fare he paid to his gharrywalla and so forth. They shall have to do all these things and more if, at all, they want to be thorough. I would request the mover to ponder over the impracticable and absolutely useless character of his proposal. As I have said already I have no objection to a reconsideration of the rules with a view to revise them in a manner that abuses, if any, may be avoided. I hope my amendment would be acceptable to the mover.

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** It strikes me as very strange that my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, has been allowed to move this amendment, though he is decidedly of opinion that a "committee" will be perfectly useless. The Kumar is also of opinion, that the formation of a committee will not satisfy the public, inasmuch as they have very much criticised the conduct of the members of this Council, with regard to their travelling and residential allowances; but the question about the reconsideration of the existing rules regarding these bills is welcome and I think the Hon'ble the Member for Government will explain to us, if a reconsideration by Government in the near future, is possible or probable. If that is so, my submission to this House is, that it is useless to have a separate committee. From all that I have read about the controversy in the papers, and from what appears in the replies of the Hon'ble the Member to the questions put by Mr. Nasker, it strikes me that in certain cases travelling allowances have been allowed for a very large number of trips during the same session of the Council. It is not very reasonable and that is why I wanted to have this resolution placed before the House for its consideration. The resolution I propose is this:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the rules regarding the grant of travelling allowances be so framed as not to allow any mufassal member to charge travelling allowance for more than two trips, *i.e.*, one in coming from, and the other in going to, his place of business, in the course of the same session."

I think that it will strike everybody in this House, that it is a very reasonable proposal, which is not likely to place an unnecessary burden upon the taxpayers.

With regard to the suggestion, or rather the insinuation, that these travelling allowance bills have been converted into a source of profit, which is strictly forbidden, under the rules; though not in so many words (I think that these rules are to be found in the Civil Service Regulations). It is distinctly laid down by Government, that these travelling allowance bills should not be made a source of profit by those who are entitled to these alowances. If the principle which I advocate in this resolution be accepted, I think that nothing will go against the existing rules.

With regard to the rate, we debated the question the other day as to whether second class or first class fares should be allowed. I am of opinion, that members of this Council are certainly entitled to get "allowances" at the rate at which ordinarily gazetted officers of Government draw them and that they should, in no case, be less. These rules strike me as very satisfactory for this particular reason, that it is extremely difficult for anybody, far less the Finance Department, or any other Department of Government, to check the actual expenses incurred by members, in travelling. So, a fixed rate has been laid down by

Government, and let us stick to that fixed rate, and at the same time let us have the rules so framed as not to give anybody any loophole for making a profit out of their travelling allowances. I have not much objection to the formation of a committee for the reconsideration of these rules, but I know that nothing very important or new will come out of the deliberations of that committee. Government are quite competent to alter the rules, if they seem to them to be "unfair" or in any way detrimental to the interests of the taxpayers. In this view of the case, I am opposed to the formation of a committee and the principle which is involved in my resolution strikes me as very reasonable and, if accepted, this controversy about travelling allowance bills, will disappear.

With these words, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that this Council recommends to the Government that a provision be made in the Travelling and Residential Allowance rules of members of the Council to the effect that no member shall be entitled to draw travelling allowance for week-end journeys when the Council is in session, but may draw residential allowances only.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, the translation of which is as follows:—

I moved a resolution in this Council on the 20th March last and wanted to reduce Rs. 45,000 from the lump amount of Rs. 1,30,000. I then drew the attention of the members of this Council particularly in regard to the short journeys incurred by them. And I am sure if the members carried my proposal on that occasion, Rs. 45,000 would have been saved. Although my colleague, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, and even the Hon'ble the Member in charge sympathised with my views, my resolution was lost.

Then again, I raised the question of forming a committee as regards travelling allowances. I find, on the Agenda Paper of to-day, over 10 motions in this regard. If it is decided to come to an agreement with us, it will be better if we are allowed to dwell upon the question in its entirety. But whether the members will do that or not depends entirely on their sweet will.

We rend the skies with deafening shouts of retrenchment and reduction everywhere, more particularly when other interests are concerned, but when ours are involved, we connive at them. This is intolerable. Let our members come forward with an emboldened heart and display their magnanimity by sacrificing their interests for the benefit of the poor and the helpless.

In answer to a recent question put by me it will be seen that Government had to pay Rs. 22,000 on account of travelling allowances of

members for week-end trips. As the Council is not held on Saturdays, members leave the headquarters and go home. If the system which obtains at present is put a stop to, viz., if meetings were held on Saturdays, a great deal of all these difficulties will be obviated. The Government assert that the procedure of adjourning on Saturdays is adopted in this Council in conformity with the practice which obtains in the House of Commons. Therefore, the present practice cannot be done away with. However it may be, the fact remains that a lot of public money is thus wasted. The members go home on Saturdays and have to attend the Council meetings on the following Mondays. This means, in other words, that they stop for a few hours in their homes. Some of them might say that they have got to attend to urgent business. But, Sir, I commend this to your consideration that in the event of such a procedure not being in vogue in this Council, would the members so easily have proceeded to their homes every week during the Council session? I think not. I admit, Sir, that unless the members look to their self-interests, I mean interests which require their personal supervision, they are bound to lose; but lose you must if you want to do good to others. This is my personal experience. Every member of this House is more or less representing the interests of his fellow-countrymen, and how can he do well if, instead of confining his attention to the only question of money, he does not look for a minute to the interests of the dumb millions whose voice he has to reverberate in this Hall?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Shah Sahib, please try and be brief.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** I am here to move my motion, and so I must substantiate my arguments. If I am not permitted to say anything outside the scope of my resolution, I would request the President to let me have my say fully on other occasions. However, one word more and I am done. I trust that the Hon'ble the Member in charge will consider this question of travelling allowances very carefully, as the country is on the verge of bankruptcy, as the people of Bengal are dying of starvation, famine, and pestilence, public money,—money raised by sucking the life-blood of the people—should not be so lavishly spent for the members' amenities of life.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think it would shorten the discussion if I were to ask the Hon'ble the Member in charge to give his reply at this stage. If other members wish to speak after that, they may do so.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I do hope that what I am going to say will have the effect of shortening this discussion, which after all, has not been a very pleasant one. The whole subject of allowances to members have been considerably discussed in this Council in different forms. Only the other day we had a long discussion on the question as to whether the members should be paid a regular fixed salary or not,

and we had also a discussion on the question as to whether double first class or second class, or only one first class fare should be given to the members coming from the mufassal. The present rules have been drawn up on this principle that Government does not want to give any remuneration by way of salary or otherwise to the members of this Council, but that it is prepared to see that the members who sacrifice their time and convenience in coming to this Council for the purpose of transacting public business do not actually suffer in their pockets. That is the principle upon which the present rules are based. These rules do not admit of any remuneration to members, and in fact are intended to prevent the members from deriving any substantial profit from the allowances made to them. At the same time, Government recognise the impracticability of having an inquiry made into the actual expenses incurred by every member who comes to Calcutta for the meetings of this Council. It would not only be impractical to embark on such an inquiry, but would not be consistent with the dignity of this Council to do so. We have, therefore, fixed a certain scale for travelling allowances, having in regard the position held by the members of this Council which is one of considerable responsibility and dignity, and we thought that the scale should not be anything lower than what has been fixed, viz., two first class railway fares. Of course, that covers not only the fare for the member himself, but also other incidental expenses, such as coolie hire, ghairy hire, diet expenses, etc., which he may have to incur. That is the principle upon which these rules have been framed, and I do not think that it is the desire of the House to depart from that principle. The other day it was almost unanimous conclusion of the House that the members should not be given any fixed salary, and so far as I can remember, it was also the opinion of the House that every member should be reimbursed any expenditure that he might incur in coming to the meetings of this Council. I do not think that it is the desire of anyone in this House that on each occasion an inquiry should be made as to what the actual expense incurred by a member in coming to this Council. As I have said, this would be a very difficult and very undesirable thing to do. Though the principle of the present rules is not objectionable, the rules, as framed, are not very clear on several points. For instance, the question has arisen as regards the week-end journeys. We do not sit on Saturdays and Sundays, and if any members return to their homes and come back in time to attend the meeting of the Council on Monday, the rules admit of their charging travelling allowances. If they had not travelled they would have been entitled to a residential allowance. Some members, I find, had to return to their places of residence in order to attend to other public business, e.g., meetings of a district board or a municipality; some had to return to their places of residence in order to attend to the cases of their clients, which had been fixed for Saturday, and some members went back to their homes to attend to private business and in one or two cases because there was

sickness in the member's family. Now the rules, as they are framed, seem to admit of these journeys being undertaken and the members charging travelling allowances for them. It is a fair question for the House to consider whether these week-end trips should be allowed or not. Of course you cannot prevent members from taking such trips if they find it necessary to do so for their private business or any other business. But the question before the House is whether they should be paid from the public exchequer for these journeys or not. That is one of the questions that will have to be considered, but there are other questions also, for instance, those mentioned in the resolution of Babu Fanindralal De; those are all matters which will be considered if the rules have to be revised.

One of the members raised the question as to the bills that have already been drawn. The Government is clearly of opinion, and I believe the House will support the Government in this respect, that it would serve no good purpose, in fact, it would not be right in a matter of this sort to have an inquiry made into the past bills of members. I can assure the House that the bills are scrutinised according to the rules of the Legislative Department and it has happened in one case so far as I recollect, that one item has been disallowed because it was found that this was a charge for travelling on purely private business, which it was considered, should not be allowed, and the member in question did not raise any objection as to that at all The Legislative Department is entrusted with the duty of scrutinising every bill and seeing that the bills are drawn according to the rules; it is only when they are satisfied that that they are in accordance with the rules, that these bills are passed. I submit to the House that it would not be desirable to inquire into the bills that have been already drawn. Those bills were found to be in accordance with the rules as they stand, but what is necessary is that the rules should be revised, and for that purpose I think it is advisable that Government should be assisted by a small committee. I am, therefore, disposed to accept the amendment of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray that a committee should be appointed to make suggestions as regards the propriety of the existing rules, and suggest any alteration that may be necessary. I am therefore willing, on behalf of Government, to have a committee consisting of the following members:—Myself as Member in charge of this Department, the Deputy-President who has kindly consented to serve on the committee, the Secretary, Finance Department, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Babu Fanindralal De, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Maulvi Yaquinuddin Ahmed. In selecting these names we have taken into consideration the various interests affected; for instance, the mufassal members have got an interest quite district from those of Calcutta members. As for the Calcutta members, they have not got to incur expenditure

like mufassal members, but they like other members of the House, are interested to see that no money is wasted. On the other hand, it is incumbent on us to hear what the mufassal members have to say; several of them have to come from very long distances to attend the meetings of the Council, they have to stay in Calcutta for days together and it is important that we should hear what they have got to say. Then there are other members who live partly in Calcutta and partly in the mufassal; it is necessary to hear what those members have got to say. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, we have selected the members I have named. So I am prepared to accept the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray that a committee be appointed for this purpose.

**Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** I beg leave to withdraw my resolution in favour of that of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

**Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** After the statement by the Hon'ble Member, I do not think it is necessary for me to make a long speech on the subject. There is just one little point to which I should like to draw the attention of the members of this Council. I do not think it is possible for us to accept the proposal of Dr. Moitra. Firstly, it would do no good to scrutinise bills which have been paid, and it would not be possible for us to ask members who appear to have drawn excessive amounts to return them, and secondly, I do not know whether such a committee would be able to act in this manner without rendering itself liable for defamation. The members must remember that the defamation law is still in force and it will not be nice for a member after he has made his report, to be hauled up in the neighbouring building and made to pay damages. I think the proposal of Dr. Moitra is not feasible and I give my hearty support to the proposal of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I would like to bring to notice one or two points after the lucid statement of the Hon'ble Member. In the first place I would draw his attention to the fact that the principle followed in manning the committee has not at least been quite consistent with sound principles. My idea is that to a great extent it is mufassal members who come from great distances who are mostly affected, but unfortunately, perhaps inadvertently he has left out any member from the Chittagong division, or from Dacca or Mymensingh. Practically the members here are all Calcutta people who are, as my friend, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, distinctly told you, always averse to mufassal people getting any advantage whatever. Attention may be drawn to various attempts made in this House, either for the purpose of cutting the pay or salary of all elected members, or for cutting down or disallowing any allowance whatever to the mufassal members; so there is reason to suspect—I hope this is not the case with everybody—that some of the Calcutta members who are only able to spare a few hours in the evening

by way of some sort of recreation in this Council, do not want that mufassal members should draw some amount by way of allowances, forgetting that some of the mufassal members have got to come here at great sacrifices after travelling hundreds of miles on steamers and railways. Are we expected to come alone with a bag in our hands, as some of the Calcutta members do? A mufassal member has got to bring with him a number of attendants; I do not mean to say that all the Calcutta members are unsympathetic in this manner; I may say that we take a great deal of interest in our work on this Council and have to put up with many inconveniences. Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur and myself, on a previous occasion, could not even get a single room to live in, and we appealed to Sir Henry Wheeler to try and get us some accommodation; at that time there was no response from any Calcutta members. These are things which make us a little suspicious and, therefore, I ask that some members from Dacca, Mymensingh and Chittagong should be added to this committee. I do not know whether my appeal will be accepted or not.

I remember on the first day of the sitting of this Council, the question arose whether the time of the sitting should be changed from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Mine was one of the voices that were raised against the proposal. We have to come from a long distance and we like to finish the work as soon as possible, and if we could sit from 11 o'clock we could finish all the business much sooner, but for the sake of the Calcutta members, the Calcutta magnates, business men (among whom I would place Babu Fanindralal De), lawyers and others, to suit their convenience we have to sit from 3 in the afternoon, but at the fag-end of the day, most of us become tired and uncomfortable and so we absent ourselves from the Council. All these things should be considered with a view to minimising the expenses. We should revert to the old system of sitting 2 or 3 hours earlier. I believe that if a committee is to be accepted at all, the two suggestions which I have made should be considered.

The next point is—Is there any necessity for such a committee? Was there any committee when the rules for travelling allowance for Government servants were made? I do not quite understand whether we are animals or amphibious. We are neither considered as first class officers nor as outsiders. In the words of a great authority "voluntary service is of great assistance which Government do not like to be deprived of." In that sense we give our services voluntarily, but when the question of travelling allowance comes, then a different standard of travelling allowance is proposed between Government servants and us. If Government can make rules for their officers' travelling allowances, why should Government be precluded from making rules for the members as well? I am now going a little beyond our province. We all know how we were treated when we first attempted to enter the Council and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by washing dirty linen

in public and giving our enemies a handle to give us further chastisement.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think your speech will necessitate another speech by the Hon'ble the Member in reply.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I suppose so. I oppose the resolution of Dr. Moitra; he, like a medical man, wants to use his dissecting knife for the purpose of cutting down our allowances, but I think no useful purpose will be served if we accept his proposal. I say there is some room for improvement, but Government rules compel us sometimes to resort to fiction. I remember on one occasion I had to come *viâ* Mymensingh; I arrived here 2 or 3 days earlier than the day fixed for the Council meeting. The rules lay down that it must be presumed that I had come direct from Chittagong; and that I must draw my travelling allowance from Chittagong; I consulted the authorities as to why I should not charge railway fare from Mymensingh, but I was told that there was no rule, and so we must stick to the fiction and consequently I had to swallow a bigger amount. There was a Conference a few days before the meeting, and it was impossible for me to go back to Chittagong and return to Calcutta in time for the Council meeting. The Hon'ble Member in charge can do all these things very easily himself and I think a solution can be found by him. I submit, Sir, that those members who can really represent the mufassal members should be on the committee.

**Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** It is a matter of the utmost humiliation to us that we have got to discuss a situation of this description. No amount of white-washing under the theory of accidental trips from Chittagong to Calcutta, *viâ* Mymensingh, can explain these things. I am, therefore, of opinion that there should be strict and rigid rules though I am perfectly sure that no amount of rigidity can possibly do when conscience is soft. There is one other thing which Mr. Annada Charan Dutta has said and which, to my mind, seems to be exceedingly awkward for any member of the House to say. He said that mufassal members ought to get allowances. By all means let them get an allowance if they like—by all means let everybody who comes to Calcutta get an allowance—but till then let him not fudge bills. That is what I do not like. Let Rs. 300 a month—if the Council can pay it—be paid to them. If you believe that you are so useful to your countrymen that you should have Rs. 300 a month, by all means have it. If you really think that the services rendered to the motherland can possibly entitle you to a charge of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 a month, by all means have it, but do not, for God's sake, fudge the bill and try to get more than you are entitled to get (Cries of: "Question").

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I question it—I have never suggested all that.

**Babu SURRENDRA NATH MALLIK:** Do not by any means say that it is accidental thing to come to Calcutta from Dacca, *viâ* Darjeeling or Mymensingh.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I have never said so, nor did I ever charge it.

**Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** My friend, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, is grievously wrong in thinking that it has reference to him. This is a matter of general principle because any suggestion of this character helps to bring down disgrace upon us. I am sure he is as anxious as I am to avoid the disgrace and unpleasant criticisms. Therefore, in our own interest, and apart from any quarrel—apart from any unnecessary bickerings, we should be on our guard that no such things should take place. I am free to admit that for want of sufficient knowledge as to how things ought to be done, these things may happen, but let us be more careful when we try to get money from other persons. Let us be on our guard in making our bills.

Then again, are we not quarrelling to meet the travelling allowances of officials? Do not we say that they take more money than they ought to for going away from headquarters for nothing and coming back again. I know of an official who came back from Bankura for nothing, went to Raipur for nothing and for nothing except to get his travelling allowances. But let us set an example. If we do these things ourselves, I am afraid it will be impossible for us to check these things on the part of officials. That is the point of view which I want to impress upon the Council. Let not this feeling go abroad that we are here to rebuke others for things which we commit ourselves. I deplore these things myself, but the fact is that there have been certain mistakes about these travelling charges. No good purpose will be served by going through all these bills now to see whether a particular member went out of town or not. Surely we can come to a certain understanding by which we can set up a standard of honour and rectitude.

Then there is another question. Why should the officials be allowed to travel first class? I say it makes no difference. If I am forced to travel second class when an official is allowed to travel first class, then I have a right to resent it. But if we, the non-official members of the Council, by a resolution arrived at a decision that we should travel second class then there is no cause for humiliation whatever. Let the officials do whatever they like. The matter is quite different. Most of the officials are not children of the soil. They are hired labourers and a labourer is always worthy of his hire. They have come here to serve the land and let them have their first class travelling allowances. But we who serve the motherland cannot have that excuse—we should not be ashamed of travelling second class or any class, if necessary. We do not always travel first class. My friend at the right—Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy—one of the richest men in Bengal does not care to travel first class.

There is no humiliation in travelling in a lower class when serving the motherland, particularly if we make a rule unto ourselves that we should do so when serving the motherland. It does not matter in the least. Let us, therefore, have a committee and let us inquire—let us find out the best possible way, whether it is the first class or the second class by which we should travel and let us try to make it as less expensive as we can remembering that on our standard other people will be able to build up their standards.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** May I rise to a personal explanation, Sir? I never said that I wanted to charge for more than I was entitled to. As regards the suggestion about the officials——

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** I rise to a point of order, Sir.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You are going beyond your rights of personal explanation.

**Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED:** By the Reforms, the franchise has been flung to the remotest corner of Bengal, and representatives have come to the Council from the romotest corners of the province, and it is only meet and proper that those, who come from long distances and undertake all the troubles of long journeys and also undertake to lose their own business in their headquarters, should be given sufficient recompense; and Government, by rules, have already provided ample recompense for such troubles and for such loss. Now, if there is any rule found lacking or wanting, if there is anything by which it is thought that the mufassal members should not have that recompense, let them change the rule, by all means. I do not for a moment say that such a rule ought not to be changed. I do not say that they are hide-bound rules by which we are to be guided all along in our career. If there is anything wanting in any of the rules let it be changed. Therefore, I have every sympathy with the resolution and if necessary the rules should be changed.

My friend, Mr. Mallik, says that we usually travel in the second class. Then he must have travelled in the second class when he went up to Darjeeling, although he charged for the double first class. [Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Does the member mean that Mr. Mallik charged Government the double first class while he actually travelled in the second class? A VOICE: I know he travelled in the first class.] Then Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri said that he travelled in the second class and spent the balance on charity on the principle perhaps of the Hon'ble Ministers to spend a balance of their salary on charity.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

[At this stage Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji moved a motion for closure. A division was called for, but as the time for the motion for adjournment has arrived, the Deputy-President decided to postpone the question to the next day.]

**Alleged flogging of prisoners in the Barisal Jail.**

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the reported flogging of some political prisoners in Barisal Jail and the feeling created thereby in the public mind

Sir, it is with a sense of deep mortification and indignation that I rise to move the adjournment of the Council to-day. The treatment meted out to the political prisoners in Barisal Jail during the recent months, culminating in the flogging of certain political prisoners, has seriously offended the feelings of the people, has set at naught the deliberate recommendations of this Council and has violated the common dictates of humanity.

After the great indignation roused by the brutal assault at Faridpur Jail, and after the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim in this Council on the 7th February last, regarding the undesirability of inflicting punishments like flogging of political prisoners, especially without the previous sanction of the Government, we naturally thought that we had heard the last of these cases. But we forget, that either through a sense of false prestige, or through some other subtle reason, connected with the sanctity of the sacred steel-frame of the Imperial Services, the officers responsible for the Faridpur affair have not been punished, even with a transfer. Is it then any wonder that what one officer can do with impunity, another officer will not hesitate to repeat but rather do, with an amount of pleasure? Is this the way to keep up the morals of the public services for which Government is so anxious? Does not this destroy the sense of duty of the services, for which even the Prime Minister was advocating so loudly the other day?

The affairs at the Barisal Jail are simple enough. A mere glance at the report of the interview between the Inspector-General of Prisons and some leading men of Barisal, as published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* will convince any impartial reader that things were not all right there. The report of the interview, if correct, is enough to damage the reputation of any Government officer, and yet the Government have remained strangely silent about this matter; the Publicity Department has not thought fit to utter a single word. Is it any wonder that the Publicity Bureau has a bad odour in this Council? I was naturally anxious to find out the truth, and sent a series of questions, but it was disallowed on the ground that it referred to a newspaper report. I have seen questions based on newspaper reports being allowed in the Legislative Assembly and sometimes in this Council also. I ask, in all seriousness, should we be thus hampered in our search for truth? Should we not be allowed to find out the truth about these serious matters? What could I do then? I interviewed the writer of the report and I

do not see any reason to disbelieve the statement contained therein, because the gentleman, who wrote this report is a gentleman of high education and social position, of equal status, if not of a better one than that of the officer, whose conversation he reported. Then, Sir, there is the written statement of Babu Gopal Chandra Sen filed in a Court of Law. Then again, there is a report of the deposition of Babu K. Ganguli, the Jailor, and Dr. P. K. Chakravarty, the Jail Doctor, in the case of Emperor *vs.* Chinta Haran Gupta. These are all public documents and can be had by anybody; if these statements are not true, it was open to Government and the Publicity Officer to contradict the statements and I am therefore justified in accepting the statements contained in these reports. All these and other signed statements go to show that on the plea of keeping discipline in the jail, five political prisoners, belonging to a respectable social status—belonging to educated families of high position—whose only fault seems to be that they acted according to their political opinion, were brutally flogged between the 25th and 27th July and the flogging was so severe that one or two are reported to have been sent to hospital. I ponder and ask this Council—seriously ask the members of this Council: Are we living under a civilised Government? Are we going to be put to this humiliating position when some of our brothers who are fit to take seats in this Legislative Council, have been brutally flogged by a gentleman——

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Not a gentleman, but a convict!

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I mean, ordered to be brutally flogged by an officer, who perhaps, who does not belong to a better social status than these political prisoners? It was quite a common occurrence to keep political prisoners confined in cells. Even a sick prisoner was not spared this form of punishment. It is said that the Superintendent told the Jail Doctor that the prisoner should not be sent to hospital until he was in a serious condition (I suppose until he was bad enough to die). Then there were such punishments, as bar-fetters, standing handcuffs, behind or bound to a staple above the shoulders and what not! I shall not attempt to describe the cruelty of the punishments. Even the undertrial prisoner, who, in the eyes of the law, is no convict, is not spared. Because he does not stand up in the presence of the Additional District Magistrate or the Superintendent, he is kept on penal diet. If this is not vindictiveness, I do not know what is!

Matters came to such a pass that some political prisoners were obliged to go on hunger strike as a protest against the inhuman treatment—the last resource of the weak against the strong. Had it not been for the timely intervention of Sir P. C. Roy, the tragedy of another McSwinney might have been enacted at Barisal.

It is needless to go into details. The position will be clear, when I say that a sober, responsible Association like the Bar Association of

Barisal, which has nothing to do with non-co-operation—and association, of which our friend, Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta—I am sorry, Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur—is a member, passed the following resolution on the 28th of July last:—

"The Barisal Bar Association has received with a feeling of horror and indignation the report that five non-co-operation prisoners have very recently been flogged in Barisal Jail for alleged breach of jail rules, This fact, taken with several cases of hunger-strike, many cases of cellular confinement, including that of a patient suffering from diarrhœa, imposition of bar-fetters, standing handcuffs, cases of enhancement of sentences under the Prisons Act, and other humiliating punishments inflicted on non-co-operation prisoners disclose a deplorable and serious state of affairs at Barisal. This Association, therefore, submits that serious consequences would ensue unless the non-co-operation prisoners or the Superintendent of Jail be transferred elsewhere without delay." The Bar Association went further, they stopped payment of their monthly donation to the hospital, as long as this Superintendent was connected with it. Now I ask the members of this Council—would that responsible Association have taken such serious steps, as to stop a donation to the hospital, unless they had something serious to complain against the Superintendent, who was also in charge of the hospital? But has he been removed from Barisal? Not a bit of it. I ask again, in all seriousness—Can things be more shameful than this? I am a non-official visitor of the Comilla Jail There are many political prisoners there, but we have no trouble with them. Why is it that the present Superintendent of Barisal is finding them breaking the jail rules? I hear that there was no trouble during the time of his predecessor.

All this was known to the Government. But how do we find them dealing with the matter? Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur makes an inquiry, but the report has been kept in the dark. The Government was very anxious to publish the report of Khan Bahadur Afzal, in connection with the Dacca Central Jail affairs. It is because the Rai Bahadur says something against the Jail authorities, that his report has not been made public? Last of all, we find that the Inspector-General himself goes to Barisal. How does he treat the matter? If the report of the interview is correct, he admits the allegations but supports the Superintendent, whose guest he is reported to have been. He is reported, as saying with a bravado: "The non-co-operator breaks the law outside and comes to jail to break the jail rules I cannot help flogging, hunger-strike, and other punishments. If you dash your head against a wall, who can help you? * * * The fact is, Government is making jail discipline with regard to political prisoners more and more stringent. The jail rules are being more tightened soon."

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I may say that this report is not correct.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I am glad to hear that this report is not correct, but unless the Government or the Inspector-General of Prisons categorically contradicts all these statements, we are bound to regard some of them as true. Is this Council going to tolerate such sentiments in one of the salaried public servants of the province? I hope the Hon'ble Member, in his reply, will give us a correct version of the interview.

This Council has passed a resolution that all these non-co-operation prisoners be set at liberty. It has also recommended that all political prisoners be treated as first class misdemeanants. What has the Government done to give effect to these resolutions? Have not the Government rather permitted its officers to treat the political prisoners with inhumanity? Is not this adding insult to injury? Is this Council going to tolerate this attitude? Let all political prisoners be treated as special class prisoners, and let all the non-co-operation prisoners be set at liberty. I know that the jail—

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Your time is up.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I have half a minute, Sir?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You can finish your sentence.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I know that the Jail Department is sheltered under the protection of a reserved wing—without any responsibility to this Council, without any responsibility to the people. But, I know this also——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You have already finished your sentence.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:**—that with all the limitations of this hopeless dyarchy, we can make our voice felt, if we but know how to combine. I seriously ask the Government not to trifle with this Council in this manner—let the resolutions of this Council be given effect to. Let a full inquiry be made into the recent affairs at Barisal Jail by a non-official committee and let the guilty be suitably punished. It will not be pleasant, if the non-official members of this Council have to combine to force the hands of the Executive to obey the mandate of the Legislature.

[Here the speaker having reached the time-limit, had to resume his seat.]

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** The shameful details that have trickled down to us from the Barisal Jail make us hang down our heads in shame and despair. Are prisoners put in jails to reform themselves or to show off what degree of inhumanity the men in charge of the

jails are capable of attaining? The Faridpur Jail incident and the assurance of the then Member in charge had led us to hope that we had seen the last of such exhibitions of valour towards prisoners. I might remind the Council of the assurance given by the then Member, Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, as follows:—

This form of punishment (flogging) should be restricted to cases of mutiny, incitement to mutiny and serious cases of assault on jail officers, while in the case of political prisoners the punishment is not to be inflicted without the previous sanction of the Government. It has also been ordered that the award of punishment of bar fetters and handcuffs should be sparingly used in the case of political prisoners.

But that was not to be. The "steel-frame" is there and we must be made to hear its jingle. And where else can you get a better opportunity than in the Jail Department? Hence, perhaps, a change of portfolios to enable the "Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Steel Frame" to enter into the jousts against convicts and undertrial prisoners to show off their might and mettle——

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** May I rise to a point of order? Is the member in order in criticising an order of His Excellency by which the change in portfolio has been brought about?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I do not think you can refer to that.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I bow to your ruling. And Sir, how is this executive function executed? By whipping the boys in the jails, by confining them for weeks together in solitary cells and by imposing bar-fetters on them and that in many cases for no other offence than being physically unable to perform the unaccustomed tasks allotted to them. I know, Sir, apologists may stand up and bemoan the lot of the authorities who, we are sure to be told, are most reluctantly meeting out these punishments only for the betterment of these misguided youths. But are the authorities in charge there cognizant of no better treatment for human ailments than bar-fetters? Does not a little sympathy or a little kindness find a place in their dealing with these youths who have voluntarily embraced the jail life in pursuance of an ideal which, though impracticable, is after all based on love for their motherland? I am sure every one here will be horrified to learn that one Dhiren while suffering from diarrhœa, was confined in one of these dingy cells, with fetters on. This I have gathered from among other accounts, specially from the evidence of the jail doctor who had deposed in a case under the Prisons Act, a certified copy of whose evidence is here with me. And, Sir, what more does this evidence reveal? There were instructions to the doctor not to remove the prisoner from the cell to the hospital as if cellular confinement and fetters were cure enough. There are many other such delectable details, for

instance, a man suffering from itches all over his body being compelled to work with his left hand, for that was the only part comparatively unaffected; prisoners being handcuffed to a high staple for hours together with only their toes touching the ground and exposed to the sun and the rain against all jail regulations. Sir, I need not add to this chapter of horrors, for the Government itself perhaps knows most of them. But surely, the Government must at least admit that things are not pulling on well between the Superintendent and the non-co-operation prisoners in the Barisal Jail; and the mutual exasperation of feeling has been such that the Superintendent has now at last become vindictive.

I may read to you an account of what transpired during the examination on oath of the jailor in the course of a trial in the jail under the Prisons Act. The jailor says—

> After his discharge from the hospital, Chinta Haran was put into the cell as a punishment for committing the offence of communicating with outsiders

I heard from the doctor afterwards that this communication consisted of saying that he had been given sago as a penal diet.

> Bar-fetters imposed on him on the 6th June were removed on the morning of the 16th He was also punished from 11th to 16th June with cellular confinement for the offence committed in the hospital

The offence was that he cried aloud that though he was sick and ailing he was given the most insufficient of food, namely, sago, and nothing else. The jailor continues—

> He was put on penal diet for 4 days from the 23rd June for refusing to work He was put on penal diet from 30th June to 8th July for refusing to stand up before the Additional Magistrate and the Superintendent when he was an under-trial prisoner I have found him sickly in appearance generally while he was in jail The doctor told me that the prisoner was a dyspeptic Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur visited the jail and inquired into their grievances. They complained of ill-treatment before Nibaran Babu in the presence of myself and the Superintendent. The allegations of ill-treatment made by the non-co-operation prisoners were directed against the Superintendent Prisoners have been complaining of ill-treatment for about a month There are twelve cells for male prisoners in the jail. Most of them are filled up by the non-co-operation prisoners for about a month.

This is the real state of affairs as described by the jail officer—the jailor.

Is it proper to let the Superintendent remain there till at last the torture and cruelty which, under the veil of law he has power to inflict, lead to some greater crime? Should he not much rather be removed from there and transferred to some other quieter district. But if the Government think that by such transfer the prestige of the "steel-frame" would be lowered, then pray remove at least the non-co-operation prisoners from under his "steel" rule. We do not want any more of our young men being confirmed in their antagonism towards the Government, till at last they turn into noxious anarchists from being merely misguided idealists.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I am always opposed to any course which might give rise to bad blood, but in this case when I find that a large number of the members of this Council have supported the motion about the doings at Barisal Jail, I think it is necessary that the Government should make some inquiry. Standing here as a representative of the people of this country, I must say that I must give voice to the opinion of my people, though, it may not be the opinion of the majority. About the merits of this particular question, I suppose the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson will enlighten us, but what I desire to say here is that the country demands that in the case of the political prisoners of the *bhadralog* class—mark my words, Sir—political prisoners of the educated class, there should be no whipping, there should be no solitary cells, there should be no night handcuffs, there should be no bar-fetters, and that they should be given ordinary diet of ordinary men. To my mind this demand seems so reasonable that I am sure Government will consider it twice before rejecting it. I believe it was the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson who accepted my resolution that there should be no special constables for political prisoners; and I do believe his sense of right and fair-play will urge him to put a stop to these obnoxious proceedings. The Government in this country is partially the people's Government; and even the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson represents the people of the country. That being so, he must act according to the wishes of the people. I therefore request him to do away with these very objectionable items in the case of the *bhadralog* political prisoners.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Barisal is my native district and it has been a matter of the deepest regret to me that the incidents which have formed the subject of debate this afternoon should have taken place where I have got my home and where, of all others, I long to see the highest ideals of British administration maintained in spotless purity. As regards the incidents themselves, I am not in a position to offer any comment. When I heard of these incidents from letters from my friends, I at once made up my mind to go to Barisal and find out by inquiries on the spot how far the serious allegations that were made were true. Unfortunately, however, professional engagement did not allow me to go there, and I do not wish to commit myself, in the absence of personal inquiries, with regard to the truth or the falsity of the allegations one way or the other. I only wish to make a few remarks of a general character and submit them to the consideration of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Jails Department and of the members of this Council.

There are, Sir, at the present moment, two distinct political parties in this country. They are what is popularly known as non-co-operators who profess to have nothing to do with the administration and who have assumed an attitude of indifference to whatever the Government may do So far as the non-co-operators are concerned, they are not represented in this Council and I need not say anything about them. The other class consists of what is popularly known as moderates and by many other

names, who believe that by associating with the Government in various matters, they can work out the salvation of their country, and bring about the political emancipation of India. It is to this class that the members of the various Legislative Councils belong. This class, by the very fact of their entry into the Council and their association with the officials of Government, have committed themselves to a certain line of action, namely, to interpret the wishes of the people before the officials, and, so far as lies in their power to interpret official intentions before their own people.

Now, Sir, whenever any act is done, and anything is undertaken by any Government official which cannot *primâ facie* be justified, it becomes the duty of the members of this Council to condemn such acts, and, in the first place, to bring this fact to the notice of Government so that proper steps may be taken. It is always an unpleasant duty to us to move in a matter like this; there can be no doubt that if the tale that has been related by my friends, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, are true—even to a fraction—I submit that it reveals a harrowing picture of what has been done to a class of prisoners—persons who, whatever their faults may be, are gentlemen, many of them graduates and under-graduates of the Calcutta University. I have got a horror, a personal horror of two things. The first is death sentence to which I am opposed on principle. The other is flogging as a means of corporal punishment. I am opposed to flogging as a means of punishment for any offence, solely on grounds based on consideration of humanity and decency. It offends against all sense of decency and humanity to catch hold of a grown-up young man, strip him naked and to flog him in the presence of his fellow-prisoners and others. If a man is subjected to indignities like these, I shudder to think what his feelings would be at that moment. Then, Sir, what good does this form of punishment do at all? So far as these non-co-operators are concerned, they are, as a class extremely tenacious and obstinate and they will never give up their views. After all, flogging is over in a few minutes and the prisoners so flogged come out with bitter and burning hatred against everything British. Does this conduce to efficient administration? Does this conduce to good feeling being generated between the rulers and the ruled? Does it in any way help the present political situation? And last of all, does it not render unpleasant the position of the members of this Council who still argue with their people—in spite of what the non-co-operators may say—that the British Government is not lost to all sense of justice and humanity and that whenever just views are placed before them, they will use their influence and will be the first to move in the matter? Supposing these things take place, after all what can Government do? The officer responsible cannot, of course, be hanged, but nevertheless serious notice should be taken of the action and the conduct of the guilty officer. I do not wish to say anything with reference to the merits of the case. Probably the Hon'ble the Member in charge of Jails

will be able to make a statement which will show that our worst fears are unfounded. I think steps should be taken so that there may be no repetition of these horrible things and so that no opportunity is given to the worst critic of Government to say that the officials of the Government have not got even ordinary consideration of decency to guide them in the discharge of their duty towards the people of the country.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The mover of a resolution like this is at a certain disadvantage. Admittedly he does not know the facts. He, therefore, has to base his arguments and appeal for the sympathy of his fellow-members on stories gleaned from newspapers, and on an appeal to their passion. The mover has referred to an interview published in various papers. He has also referred to various incidents which he alleges to have taken place. I, in reply, am also at a disadvantage, because these incidents are not the basis of this motion to adjourn the House, but are brought in for the purpose of creating a prejudice, and I have not, in the time allowed to me by the rules, time to go into every one of these allegations. I shall be perfectly prepared, if the mover gives me chapter and verse for any allegations made, to inquire into it and let him know the result. The mover says that not being aware of the facts himself, he interviewed the writer of the report and did everything possible to verify them. But one thing which would have struck most people as the proper thing to do would be to come to the Member in charge of the department. In that case I should have been happy to give Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta all the information that I possessed.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I say that in order to find out the truth, I sent a series of questions for the Hon'ble the Member to answer, but they were all refused?

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** My questions too have not been replied to.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** I was in doubt as to who the Hon'ble the Member in charge of Jail was, so I could not approach him.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Government, so far from objecting to this motion, welcome the oportunity of placing the facts before the Council and explaining the actual position. In the first place I think the House will agree with me that a jail is a place where it is absolutely necessary to maintain discipline. It is impossible to run a jail without discipline of a somewhat strict and exacting kind. The convicts in the jail have been convicted by the Courts for offences against the law of the land, and the majority of the population of a jail forms a body which can only be dealt with by strict enforcement of discipline and jail routine. The Council, I think, will agree with me that it is

impossible to allow any convict openly to flout authority and deliberately to set himself to destroy the discipline of the jail. In a jail there can be no exceptions; one man cannot be allowed to do one thing and another man another thing. The discipline in a jail must be the same for all members of a particular class. It may be that a particular offence may seem to the members of the Council to be of a trivial nature, such as not standing up when the Superintendent comes. In the ordinary way, if when I was visiting a school or any other place, some body refused to speak to me, or refused to stand up, I should take no notice of the breach of courtesy, but when the deliberate object of not getting up is to destroy the authority of the man who has been charged by Government and by the laws of the country with carrying out the discipline of the jail and when the deliberate intention is contumaciously and continuously persisted in, then I say the Council can come to no other conclusion than that there is a serious breach of discipline which ought to be taken notice of and dealt with. It is often complained that the youths of Bengal do not know what discipline is, whether parental discipline, school discipline or discipline of any other kind, and I think there is a good deal of truth in that nowadays. There seems to be an idea abroad that discipline in itself is something derogatory and that it shows a weak moral fibre to submit to discipline. The mover, in the course of his speech, has even referred to a sentence of the Court as being degrading, among the degrading punishments that were inflicted. The mover included among degrading punishments, punishments or extra punishments inflicted by the Court under section 52 of the Prisons Act.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** That was the resolution of the Bar Association.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I am glad that the mover does not agree with the resolution of the Bar Association. I put it to the Council that there is nothing degrading in obeying discipline. Discipline is a very valuable training. Sir Rugles Brise, the greatest authority on jail administration in England, speaking on prison administration, in his recent book, says: "Its first and primary function must of course be to secure obedience, discipline, order and the habit of industry. These things alone have a great moral value." So the first thing is to secure obedience, discipline, order and the habit of industry. After all, discipline is really at the bottom of the conception of the political state. Individualism without discipline means anarchy, and you cannot have individualism in a highly disciplined body like the jail—there is no room for it. We may treat different classes of prisoners according to different rules, but the fundamental principle remains; whatever your rules are in jail, they must be carried out exactly, otherwise it will cease to be possible to carry on the jail and carry out the orders of punishment inflicted by the Courts of justice.

Now, let us see what the actual facts were relating to the whipping in the Barisal Jail. The Council may have carried the impression from the mover's speech that the unfortunate state of affairs in Barisal is an isolated case which has only occurred during the last month or two. I have a report from a non-official visitor of last January pointing out the state of affairs in the Barisal Jail. I have also here a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons of the 18th May, on the Alipore Central Jail, the Jessore Jail, Berhampur Jail, the Hooghly Jail and the Chittagong Jail, all of them having been in an exceedingly bad state and all owing to precisely the same cause, namely, the determination of the political prisoners to smash the jail discipline and to render it impossible to carry on the administration of the jail.

On the 27th June (I confine myself now to the Barisal Jail), we received a report from the District Magistrate of Bakarganj who is not himself in charge of the jail, but is responsible for the district. I will read an extract from it:—

The non-co-operation prisoners are not ill-treated in any way in the jail Their behaviour, on the other hand, is most objectionable and insubordinate and under present conditions it is impossible to keep them under discipline. I quote some instances:—

(1) On 1st March, 1922, a large number of non-co-operation convicts refused to go inside their ward

(2) On 15th April and at other times numbers of non-co-operators persisted in singing loudly on the plea that this was done for a religious purpose The songs were frequently of a political nature.

(3) On 16th April about 6 non-co-operators climbed on the roof of the female ward in which they belonged.

(4) On the 27th May and at other times some of them climbed on the outhouses or walls of their compound in order to communicate with outsiders

(5) On the 7th June two non-co-operators assaulted a convict sweeper in the execution of his duty.

(6) The Superintendent reports that on frequent occasions he has been publicly abused by the non-co-operators, particularly on the 12th June, one prisoner actually called him "rascal," "liar," "son of a pig," "haramzada" and other foul epithets in front of other convicts Major Munro reports further that paid warders are frequently cursed and threatened and also the Assistant Jailor.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** May I know when he did make that statement?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** This is the District Magistrate's report of the 27th June.

The District Magistrate wound up by saying that unless some steps were taken to restore discipline in the Barisal Jail, he could not be held responsible for the peace of that district. The Commissioner, in forwarding this report, endorsed the Magistrate's remarks and said that it was absolutely essential, in the interest of the peace of his division, that some steps should be taken to restore discipline not only in that jail but also in other jails.

The Council will perhaps agree with me that that was a report which Government could not pigeon-hole. It disclosed so serious a state of affairs that the Superintendent of the Barisal Jail was summoned to Calcutta to report on the actual condition of the jail and to give his views as to the reasons for this state of things. I am reading now from a memorandum of the conferences.

The Superintendent then produced a number of "Convicts' History Sheets" and showed that several of the political prisoners, some of whom were in the "Special Class" and some were not, had persistently refused to work or to stand up in his presence, and had committed various offences against prison discipline. Every punishment available had been resorted to, including deprivation of privileges, penal diet, standing handcuffs, and confinement to cells. In some cases, these punishments had been effective, in others not, and a few men had been punished as many as 12 or 14 times. The example of these men was having a very bad effect upon the other prisoners and the fact that it was known that the Superintendent was powerless to do anything more was an encouragement to insubordination.

He represented that the want of discipline even among a few men was spreading insubordination among the whole of the jail population.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** What is the date of the conference?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** It was held in the beginning of July. The Barisal Jail does not only contain these non-co-operation prisoners but also a considerable number of prisoners convicted of ordinary crimes, some of whom are of a desperate character. It is impossible for Government to allow these convicts to get out of hand from the example of the non-co-operation prisoners. The Superintendent of the Jail was convinced that the only remedy was to restore to him the power, which had temporarily been taken away, the power, which he enjoyed under the Jail Code, of whipping as a last resort. Government had issued orders, pending the general settlement of the question of the treatment of these various classes of prisoners that no prisoners who were connected with the non-co-operation movement were to be flogged without previous reference to Government. These orders were passed as a temporary measure until the whole question of the treatment of political prisoners was decided. The Superintendent, therefore, requested that the power should be given back to him, and he was satisfied that if it was given back to him, it might very likely not be necessary for him to use it. Government instructed the Superintendent to send to them the history sheets of the worst cases, *i.e.*, the cases of men who had contumaciously refused to work, who had deliberately defied discipline and on whom other punishments had had no effect, and the cases in which he considered that an example was necessary in order to prevent insubordination spreading through the jail. The Superintendent submitted eight cases with the details. On the 21st July, Government authorised the Superintendent to use his

discretion in threatening those prisoners that whipping would be resorted to if they did not work and if necessary to carry it out in any of those cases without further reference to Government. The Superintendent felt it necessary to use this authority in five cases.

The first case was a lad who was whipped. He is not a special class but is an ordinary convict. He was warned first that if he refused to work—he was sentenced to hard labour—the punishment of whipping would be inflicted on him. He still refused to work and he was then warned once more that he would be whipped; and at last he was given 15 stripes.

His history-sheet is as follows:—

No. 1.—Age 19, health good; an ordinary class non-co-operator from Patuakhali; sentenced under section 379 Indian Penal Code, *i.e.*, theft, to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment, due for release on the 8th August, 1922, who persistently refuses to work. He has been warned on the 10th June, 1922; given four nights' handcuffs on the 13th June, 1922; link-fetters seven days on the 14th June 1922; penal diet on the 15th June, 1922, 96 hours; standing handcuffs seven days on the 23rd June, 1922; seven days' bar-fetters on the 8th July, 1922. It cannot be said that the whipping was inflicted on him before other punishments had been tried.

The other four cases are similar:—

No. 2.—Age 18, health good, from Patuakhali Sub-Jail, sentenced under sections 147 and 142, Indian Penal Code, (*i.e.*, rioting), on the 12th April, 1922, to three months' rigorous imprisonment (sentence enhanced for not working three months); still refuses to work. Warned on the 21st May, 1922, and on the 7th June, 1922; two days' standing handcuffs on the 9th June, 1922; sentenced enhanced on the 17th June, 1922; 96 hours' penal diet on the 22nd June, 1922; 14 days' cellular confinement and 96 hours' penal diet on the 8th July, 1922.

No. 3.—An ordinary class non-co-operator, age 22, health indifferent but weight increasing, sentenced under section 143 and 146, Indian Penal Code (*i.e.*, rioting), to six months' rigorous imprisonment and one year's simple imprisonment in default of a bond to keep the peace. He refuses to work and has been punished as follows:—Warned on the 2nd May, 1922; 96 hours' penal diet on the 3rd May, 1922; 96 hours' penal diet on the 15th June, 1922; standing handcuffs three days on the 23rd June, 1922; standing handcuffs seven days on the 27th June, 1922.

No. 4.—An ordinary class non-co-operator, from Patuakhali; age 20; health indifferent but is gaining weight; sentenced under section 379, Indian Penal Code (theft), to three months' rigorous imprisonment, punished as follows:—Warned on the 9th June, 1922; four nights' handcuffs on the 10th June, 1922; two days' standing handcuffs on the 13th June, 1922; seven days' standing handcuffs on the 13th June, 1922; bar-fetters two weeks on the 26th June, 1922.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I rise to a point of order. Is there no time-limit for official members?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has to reply to four speakers.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** He is being allowed to continue without his even asking for permission.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson may go on. He did ask for permission from me.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I trust that I shall not weary the Council much longer. [Several voices: "No, no, please go on. We want to hear you."] The punishment of warning and bar-fetters were on account of obstructing a warder and refusing to stand up, respectively. The remainder were for refusing to work.

No. 5.—Age 20, an ordinary non-co-operator from Patuakhali; health indifferent, but has put on 6 lbs. weight; sentenced under section 379, Indian Penal Code, to four months' rigorous imprisonment, punished as follows:—Removed to an accommodation cell on the 28th March, 1922. Disrespectful to the Superintendent on the 5th April, 1922; 21 days' link-fetters, handcuffs behind by day for four days on account of refusal to work on the 6th May, 1922; 10 days' link-fetters on the 10th June, 1922; refusing to work, sentence enhanced on the 13th June, 1922; 96 hours' penal diet on the 23rd June, 1922; seven days' standing handcuffs, on the 28th June, 1922.

The Council will, therefore, see that these men were convicted under the ordinary law of the land. No doubt, their offences were committed in connection with the non-co-operation movement, but the sentences of the Court were passed under the ordinary law of the land. The authorities of the jail tried every punishment in the Jail Code without effect. Two of these men were put up to Court for judicial punishment. The only result was that they came back to jail with three months more hard labour and still refused to work. Corporal punishment is a punishment authorised by the Jail Code as a last resort. I am aware that there is a very great dislike to corporal punishment in this Council and that there is a growing sentiment opposed to corporal punishment in other civilised nations. But it must be remembered that when people talk of flogging and they quote diatribes against flogging in England and other countries, the flogging generally referred to in this connection is flogging with cat-o'-nine-tails which in the past in England was inflicted with considerable brutality in the Army, Navy and in the prisons. It is still permissible in the English jails, but only for mutiny or incitement to mutiny or serious assault on prison officers and the flogging is inflicted with the sanction of the Secretary of State and it is very rarely inflicted ("Hear, hear"). Up to 1898, it could be awarded by one of the

Directors of Convict Prisons or by the Visiting Magistrates for any serious offences against prison discipline and required no further confirming authority. In India, jail whipping is inflicted with a rattan cane half an inch in diameter and in every triangle there is a hole of half an inch in diameter through which, under the rules, the cane must be passed before the whipping is inflicted in order to ensure that the cane is not thicker. In the circumstances under which corporal punishment is inflicted in India, I am not sure that I am prepared to endorse Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq's statement that it is destructive of soul and body. We are perhaps more accustomed to the idea of the use of a cane because it forms the backbone of our system of discipline in the public schools in England. The cane is an emblem of the authority of the monitor in a public school, who is appointed to carry out the discipline among his fellows and in the course of his carrying out that discipline he uses the cane. I am sure that some of us have suffered from the cane (A voice: "Not I") and in turn have inflicted suffering. I cannot recollect that anyone has ever suggested that it was degrading or lessening to their self-respect. (A voice: "It must have been painful.") Yes; very painful. We should all be very glad to get rid of the punishment of whipping in jails, but I put it to the Council that we cannot get rid of the punishment at the expense of discipline. If anybody could suggest a punishment which would take the place of whipping, I should be delighted to consider it. But there must be some punishment at the back which will be the last resort in the maintenance of discipline. Speaking entirely for myself, I trust I shall not have an opportunity of putting it in practice, I should certainly prefer the punishment of whipping to the punishment of bar-fetters. But the abolition of the punishment of whipping is not merely a question of reform of the jail administration but it is a question of the reform of the prison population, especially in this matter of maintaining discipline; when the convicts recognise that the sentences of the Courts must be carried out and that their sentences involve interferences with their personal liberty and freedom in many ways, then we should get some way towards abolishing whipping and other forms of jail punishments. But the sense of discipline must come first. It is in our jails in England; and until we have got a recognised sense of discipline in the Indian jails, I fear we shall still have to continue these punishments. I must say, however, that the conduct of these five men, which I have detailed, is putting off that day very considerably. When these prisoners and prisoners like them go to jail with the deliberate intention to defy discipline, to defy authority and to stir up the rest of the jail population to similar indiscipline, they are deliberately putting back the time when we can abolish these punishments in jail. As long as whipping is an authorised punishment, I think the Council will agree with me that there can be no clearer case for its infliction than in the five cases that I have described. These men were not "special class" prisoners; even if they had been, it would

have been the same. Government have never recognised and are not prepared to recognise that connection with a political movement or any other question of motive gives any convict a right to exemption from the consequences of a sentence passed on him by the Courts in accordance with the law of the land. If the sentence to which he is liable is too severe, we should then alter our law. If there are mitigating circumstances, the Court should take them into account; but they have nothing to do with the jail administration. The jail authorities are bound to enforce discipline irrespective of the personal history of the convict. There are cases to meet which it is justifiable and reasonable to have special rules, but these special rules will not be for the purpose of exempting the men from punishment but for the purpose of adapting the punishment to the particular circumstances of the case. I am sorry, Sir, that I have taken so much time and I can only thank the Council for giving me an opportunity of not only explaining the facts but also for detailing at length what the policy of Government is in this very important matter.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Has the Government order, which laid down that the sentence of whipping should first be referred to Government been withdrawn?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** No.

**Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA:** I would only like to mention that whipping has a demoralising effect when it is administered either inside the jail or outside it. It has practically been abolished in many civilised countries. Even Courts of law which used to pass sentences of flogging have practically discontinued them. There is no reason why it should not be discontinued in our jails. The Jail Commission has recommended that flogging should be allowed only in two instances, namely, if there is a rebellion inside the jail or if there is an attempted rebellion or any serious assault on jail officers. Under certain special circumstances it might or might not be allowed. I have nothing further to say as the matter has been discussed threadbare. I think, however, that it was quite meet and proper for the Council to have pronounced its opinion on the facts which have come to light on the motion of my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

[At this stage the Deputy-President vacated the Chair which was then taken by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, one of the panel of Chairmen.]

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** Of all the punishments that have been inflicted in our jails, flogging is the most brutal. I am not using this word of my own, but this word has been used by the Indian Jail Committee in their report. As a member of the Standing Committee of the Jail Department, I had the honour to attend one of its meetings last year when the subject of flogging in the jail was

under discussion. Unfortunately then there was no other non-official member present except my humble self and it was decided after a long discussion that flogging should be restricted only to two cases—(1) rebellion or incitement to rebellion; and (2) gross insult to the visitors or officers of the Jail. This committee sat a month and a half before the incident in the Faridpore Jail (I have no knowledge of what happened afterwards there) and if Government is at all willing to accept the decision of the Standing Committee I should say that the decision arrived at in that meeting of the Standing Committee should be accepted by Government and acted upon. If, on the other hand, Government thinks that the decision of the Standing Committee is only an advice which it can accept or refuse as it likes, then I think there is no necessity for a Standing Committee. Who are the members of the Standing Committee? In every Standing Committee there are four non-official members who are supposed to be the representatives of the people.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** Are we discussing the functions of the Standing Committee?

**The CHAIRMAN (Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq):** I think that any reference to the Standing Committee would be out of order.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** The proceedings of the Standing Committee are confidential.

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** Of course the proceedings of the Standing Committee are confidential, but as regards the Faridpore Jail affair the Hon'ble the Member in charge made a statement to this House so I am entitled to state what happened in the Standing Committee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I have already given a ruling that you are not entitled to refer to it.

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** I think that Government will consider the advice of the Standing Committee and act upon it. Unless Government does that, the feelings of the people would be embittered and alienated from Government at the same time.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I had no idea, Sir, that such a motion as the one which my friend, Babu Indu Bhdshan Dutta, has moved was coming up for discussion to-night. Therefore I was quite unprepared for it. But after hearing Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and after hearing all the facts related by him I think I must say something in this connection, because I am not altogether unconnected with

Barisal and because I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not take part in this debate. What Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has told us to-night is most probably a fabrication in the opinion of the Hon'ble the Member in charge. He was not present in Barisal Jail, he was not an eye-witness to the occurrences and, therefore, the Hon'ble the Member is of opinion that he is not competent to move such a motion. Probably the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Jail Department was present in Barisal, was an eye-witness to all the occurrences and, therefore, was perfectly entitled to speak with such an attitude on the matter. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta relies on stories, and stories told who knows by whom? Statements on oath in Court, statements by the most respectable men of Barisal by the leaders of the Barisal Bar used by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta should be disbelieved because the Hon'ble the Member in charge does not rely at all on other people's versions and what he gives is all his own experience.

Then Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has appealed to passion and, therefore the Hon'ble the Member has read us a dissertation or sermon on discipline. He has told us that discipline must be maintained and it is also the watchword in English jails. But while he has given us a long list of the breaches of discipline committed in Barisal Jail, evidently relying on other people's reports, he has only forgotten to mention how such breaches of discipline there in England are punished. Therein lies all the difference. He has given us also a long and sickening catalogue of the inhuman punishments inflicted on the non-co-operation prisoners. Even if Indu Babu had not told us all that he has disclosed to us, certainly the statements regarding flogging, penal diet, etc., that have come from the Hon'ble the Member are sufficiently condemnable and, therefore, we, as representatives of the people here, say, in the name of humanity, which is after all not a relative term and which is certainly a greater thing than discipline, that all these forms of inhumanity should be put a stop to at once. That is our confirmed opinion and, I think if this matter had come to voting, it would have been the solid, recorded opinion of this Council. It is said by people who owe no manner of responsibility to the public opinion here, but are simply responsible to public opinion overseas, that the non-co-operators are the worst enemies of the country. That may or may not be the case; but even if they are enemies in the opinion of some people, they are certainly entitled to humane treatment, that is, such treatment as a human being ought to expect from his fellowmen, and we, who are responsible to the public opinion in this country which has not placed them beyond the pale of humanity, deliberately say that we will not permit such bad practices and that we will not put up with these harrowing things. It is hardly possible to talk dispassionately or patiently on this matter and, therefore, not to be interfered with by the cries of points of "Order" in this Council. I do not like to prolong my speech.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I wish to intervene in this debate—in this discussion. For fully one year I have thought over this subject which is now before this Council. The non-co-operators in jail will not listen to any advice from those who visit jails. They will not leave their creed and their own ideas. They will not, as a rule, obey the rules of the jail because they have their own ideas. They bring forward their own ideals from outside and will not abandon them. That is the difficulty. Now, if jail discipline is to be maintained by flogging, by punishing little boys, by standing handcuffs and solitary confinement, we feel compassion for them. That is the reason why I ask that the Council and the Hon'ble the Member in charge to consider the suggestion which I submit to them with humility. Very recently I had been to a neighbouring jail where there was a similar disturbance and when I came out from the jail with my friend, Dr. A. Suhrawardy, the day before yesterday, the thought which struck me was this, that all these non-co-operation prisoners ought not to be distributed among several jails. They ought to be placed in one jail so that the jail authorities may not labour under the idea that discipline may not be maintained. Now, if the authorities distribute 300 to one jail, to another 400 and so on, the jail authorities may consider that in order to maintain the discipline among other prisoners, it is necessary that they should suffer the same kind of punishment as is awarded to others. That is a matter for consideration and we should not lightly pass it over; but in order to maintain discipline, can it not be arranged that all these prisoners who were convicted under political offences, be removed to one place? If that is done, then the jail authorities may not be afraid of the want of discipline in the jail. I do not wish to address the Council any longer but I do say that it would be the duty of a civilised Government to take a note of the volume of public opinion to consider over the matter and tide over the difficulty in which the political prisoners are placed. For the sake of humanity our Government ought to protect these prisoners who are sent to jail and to relieve their sufferings.

[At this stage the Deputy-President returned and re-occupied the Chair.]

**Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** In rising to support the adjournment of the House to consider the recent flogging in Barisal Jail, I only wish I could communicate to the official members, particularly those who sit smiling and cheerful as the horrible tale is unfolded, some of the bitter indignation we feel at the insults offered to our countrymen—at the manner in which the honour of an Indian even though he may be in jail, has been sacrificed to the fetish of alleged discipline. All these have been possible because the victims are helpless and far away from the capital—all these have been possible in the hope that their cry may not reach so far as to attract attention. I defy the Government to

have done anything similar to it to the leaders of the movement—equally gaol-birds, equally within the rigours of the Jail Code, on the plea that they were smashing up gaol discipline. I defy any official to have wreaked his vengeance on those of whom the country had made an idol because they refused to work. But no, it is only on the weak and helpless, the lowly and the forgotten that cruelties can be safely perpetrated, and shame on the Government if it tolerates and condones it. Ours is the responsibility to vindicate the wrong suffered, and if we do not shoulder it, ours the greater and the direr shame. We have had to remain satisfied with the thwarting of all our resolutions regarding the treatment of the political prisoners, we must not remain satisfied any more; let us not remain content with the vain words that this Council has power to carry out its wishes, when its wishes are brushed aside as so much waste matter, and we continue to support the Government with funds. It was with extreme regret and with alarm that we learnt that the portfolio had been transferred from the hands of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, for as long as he was at the head, we knew that the honour of Indians was safe as a matter of policy. But whoever is at the head, let us tell him that this Council, and not a single non-official, will stand flogging, hand cuffing and the extreme penalties of the Jail Code on honourable men sent to prison for the love of their country. Such methods of cruelty and oppression must be abandoned, and nothing can justify them. Does the Hon'ble the Member seriously suggest that because the prisoners refused to work, the Superintendent was justified in inflicting all those horrible punishment? If he does, then surely the mentality of the Government is something that it alone can appreciate. If Government finds it so difficult to draw the line between savagery and discipline, then let the Government segregate the political prisoners as they segregate their political prisoners in their own country, let the Government treat them with the same consideration as they treat their own political prisoners, and neither Government will have to trouble themselves with breaches of discipline, nor have we to burn with shame at our disgrace and humiliation.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** It has now become very late. It is a difficult question. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has said that flogging and other cheap methods of discipline would be necessary for keeping up the moral of the jail prisoners. In England they have given up flogging. It was I think in 1898, nearly 24 years ago.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Flogging is still admissible in England.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** In England, flogging is inflicted with the permission of the Secretary of State. The Government here is modelled after the Government in England, if they have provided that safeguard in England, why should not such a safeguard be provided for in this country also. There are many people who have doubts about

the effect of corporal punishment on non-co-operators. There are people who love their country and who want to serve their country in their own way. Because some of us differ in our opinion, should we try to change their opinion by corporal punishments? Corporal punishments would rather make them cling to their opinion with greater force. We have heard about what happened in Barisal Jail from other people. May I not suggest that Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur who knows about the matter should enlighten the House with what he had personally seen?

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** He has preferred to remain silent.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** With these words I would suggest that flogging and such other corporal punishments should not be resorted to very lightly.

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** It is with great diffidence, that I get up to say a few words in connection with the present debate. My diffidence is due to the fact that I took some part in the question as to the treatment of these political prisoners. The Hon'ble the Member, who was in charge of the Jail Department, very kindly asked me to interview the political prisoners, and in July last, I had the permission of the Jail authorities there, to interview the prisoners and after the interview I communicated to the Hon'ble the Member in charge, the points which came to my personal notice, as well as the complaints of these prisoners. I had the privilege of listening to the accounts of indiscipline in the jail, from the Jail Superintendent. My position was this. I had no opportunity to inquire fully into the matter. I had simply to listen to the complaints of these political prisoners, and I listened also to the tale of indiscipline given by the Superintendent of the Jail himself. After considering all these points, certain facts appeared to me, to be very important in connection with the maintenance of discipline in the Barisal Jail. I may mention to this House, that this flogging took place, long after my visit and my interview. When I interviewed these prisoners, some of them were on a hunger strike. My object in interviewing the prisoners was to ascertain the real reason for this hunger strike, and if possible, to persuade them to return to saner views of things, and to start taking food. Now it appeared to me, that there were several political prisoners, who laboured under the impression, that they were the leaders of the other political prisoners; and many grievance, real or imaginary, that was put before them, was magnified and they thought that redress should come from the Jail Superintendent. So they communicated their complaints to the Superintendent of Jail, who saw nothing in these grievances, and these people by way of protest, as they said, went on hunger strike. Now, Sir, I observed that it was very difficult for the Superintendent to deal with these political prisoners; because these prisoners came from the *bhadralog* class, and they were

under the impression, that they were great patriots and that they were suffering for the sake of their country. Therefore, they were not, in every case, prepared to submit to all the rules of the jail. I took some pains to explain to them that as they courted imprisonment themselves they were bound to submit to the jail rules. They said that they were quite ready to submit to the jail rules, but the Superintendent was enforcing them, with great rigour, and certain facts were mentioned to me. Now it occurred to me, that some of these misguided young men broke these rules of the jail, not knowing the full consequences. When these matters were sympathetically explained to them, they realised that their position was rather peculiar; as they went to jail of their own accord. When they were impressed with this idea, I thought that half the trouble was over; but unfortunately, that was not to be so, I offered certain suggestions to the Hon'ble the Member in charge as well as to the authorities at Barisal, with regard to these political prisoners. I suggested, that instead of putting some of these men into cells or subjecting them to what is called cellular punishment, I suggested that they should be transferred elsewhere from the Barisal Jail specially those men, who were supposed to be the ring-leaders, or at any rate according to the views of the Superintendent, great mischief-makers. If they were removed from the Barisal Jail, discipline of the other prisoners, would be easily maintained. I was extremely sorry, that my suggestion was not accepted by Government. Now, ultimately after all the mischief had been done and the whole people of the district had been offended by the inhuman treatment meted out to some of these prisoners, the Government has seen its way to accept my suggestion and I find that at any rate, four or five of these prisoners have been transferred from the Barisal Jail.

Now with regard to breaches of discipline, I observed that they were very common, and this must be said to justify the conduct of the Jail Superintendent. I am not going to speak anything about the flogging because that happened long after this I think, at that time there was no idea of flogging At any rate, the confinement of these men in cells, struck me as very cruel and inhuman I have always been under the impression that solitary confinement was the highest possible punishment. Well, it was pointed out to me, that it was not quite solitary confinement; but if a man is put into a cell and is not allowed to speak to other people, save and except the warders who go there with food or water, then, I think that that is a kind of solitary confinement. My impression of these prisoners was this, that when these people were put into cells, their mental balance was disturbed. If a man is put in a solitary place, for days and days together—I am not speaking of the *Sanyasi*—I am not speaking of those people, who are trained to that sort of life—if a man is put in solitary cells, for 14 or 15 days, all the time only brooding over his grievances real and fancied, and that sort of things, he is bound to lose his mental balance. It appeared to me that

some of these young men actually lost their mental balance by that treatment. I had a talk with the Superintendent about transferring them from the Barisal Jail; and he agreed with me that that was the best course. I do not know why that course was not adopted.

With regard to flogging it came to my notice afterwards. Of course, that is all hearsay, that some of these prisoners, finding that none of their grievances was attended to or removed started refusing to do any work and that the Superintendent of Jail had to take to flogging. One evening, I was quite surprised by the shouts coming from all directions, of young men, all non-co-operators, as they styled themselves, crying out *Allah ho Akbar, Gandhi Maharaj ki Jai* almost throughout the night. I enquired about the reason and was told that some of these men were flogged inside the jail and that they heard their cries from outside the jail. In order to show their sympathy and to enliven their spirits, they kept on shouting, throughout the whole night. That was what struck me very much, and I can tell the House that this flogging was taken very much to heart by the people of the town. My friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, has told you that even from the political point of view, it was not desirable that these prisoners should be treated thus; and though we, Moderates, entertained the idea that the time is not far off when they will come to their senses and will return to saner ways of political thinking and agitation, I think that the task of these Moderates, who want to win them over to the side of sanity, has become very difficult indeed on account of this treatment, because, apart from the inhumanity of the thing, flogging in the presence of ordinary convicts, is considered very undignified, particularly for this class of people. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has referred to the sections of the law under which they were punished. These sections mean nothing. He mentioned with regard to one prisoner, who was sentenced, under section 379, we know what section 379 is—it is theft. As in the old *swadeshi* days, when a quantity of salt was thrown away or when a piece of Manchester cloth was snatched away from a man, that was the kind of theft that was meant. By mentioning the section, I do not think the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson thought that these persons were ordinary thieves and house-breakers! Again, section 147 has been mentioned. That section refers to "members of unlawful assemblies" Of course, all these volunteers, when they meet they are declared to constitute an unlawful assembly. However, that is a point which is not very pertinent to the present discussion. There is no question that these young men, misguided though they may be, are ordinary thieves and it is also an admitted fact, that these young men went to jail of their own accord, under the impression that thereby they would get *swaraj* soon, and that was the idea which was disseminated by the non-co-operators, all through the land. To my mind, it seems, that these prisoners deserve a different treatment from the ordinary convicts, and I think that was the policy of Government, from the beginning. I do not know if this policy has

been changed. I am under the impression that a little sympathetic treatment of these young men, will bring them round to what the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has described as the most important thing in jail namely, discipline. A little sympathy, a little kind treatment of the prisoners, and of those ring-leaders and putting them away from these young men—some of them were very young boys—would have put the matter right and if my humble suggestion, made a month before this flogging, were accepted and acted upon, I think all these painful tales would not have been told to us.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** When was that?

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** That was before I came to attend the Council during the July session. I communicated my views after interviewing these prisoners to the Hon'ble the Member in charge; of course I had not to submit any report; I simply took down notes by way of refreshing my memory, of what I learnt from them, and handed them over to the Hon'ble the Member. This is all I have to say, and I think it is up to Government to see that these young boys are more humanely treated and more kindly dealt with and the political atmosphere of the country cleared up.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I am extremely sorry that the matter did not attract our notice, and I am thankful to Indu Babu for giving us an opportunity of discussing this matter to-day. I believe, after hearing the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson and Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur, that the condemnation of the Government's action is complete. There was no justification for the action taken by the jail authorities. I do not know to whom the Jailor came, and from whom he took the order—whether from the Government or from a responsible Executive Councillor, but this much I say that this would not be an order either of my friend, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, or his successor, the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson. I do not believe that any of them would pass such an order: "Do whatever you like for the sake of disciplinary measures." Perhaps the gentleman in charge of the Barisal Jail is an Englishman and the teachings of Shakespeare would not be of any use to him. My friend, Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur, gave the best possible advice, but it was unheeded. Why, Sir? There is the resolution of the Barisal Bar, and my friend also informs us that all the people of Barisal are dissatisfied with the treatment accorded to these so-called convicts. The treatment accorded to them, I must say, is inhuman and barbarous. Whatever may be the provisions of the Jail Code, it ought to have been resorted to as a last resource; instead of that being done, it was callously done. If there was any trouble anywhere in Bengal with these non-co-operators, how is it, Sir, that we did not hear of those troubles——

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** May I state that the trouble was all over Bengal?

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Just now I heard, I believe, that for several days the Inspector-General of Prisons reported that there was no trouble with these non-co-operation prisoners; of course, there was flogging at Faridpur and we thought that after discussion of that matter, it was conceded by Government that without special orders flogging would not be resorted to, and I thought that we had heard the last of flogging. If there was really any trouble with these non-co-operators, they ought to have been removed or the ring-leaders might have been separated, but that was not done. Instead of that the jailor had the order from Government that any punishment could be inflicted on them as a disciplinary measure. I hear to-day that our boys are not willing to come under discipline, and that they are unruly. Our experience is not so; they are impulsive, no doubt, but at the same time if they are kindly treated, if they are properly handled under certain circumstances, they act like gods. Recently the students in Rajshahi acted marvellously in connection with the flood disaster. These students under the guidance of some of their teachers and professors behaved admirably His Excellency the Governor was there the other day and personally heard of the behaviour of the students in rendering valuable service during the distress. Whatever be the facts, I think it is high time——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** It is 20 minutes to 7, and the two hours allotted for the discussion of this subject have elapsed

The matter is, therefore, talked out.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Have I not the right of reply?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Certainly not.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M., on Tuesday, the 29th August, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 29th August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 84 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Excavation of a tank within Bajitpore Municipality.

***LIV. Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state the total amount spent in the excavation of the large tank within the jurisdiction of the Bajitpore Municipality, in Mymensingh, the construction of which had been sanctioned in connection with the District Partition Scheme?

(*b*) Has the Hon'ble the Minister received complaints regarding the manner in which the money has been spent on this tank and also as to its inadequacy to meet the purpose of the excavation?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that the tank is very shallow?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter at an early date to ascertain whether the money has been properly spent and whether the tank is calculated to store up sufficient water to meet any drought?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) The amount spent in the excavation of the tank is Rs. 10,177.

(*b*) No complaints have been received criticising the manner in which the above sum has been spent. The inadequacy of the funds provided for the excavation has been criticised, but the purpose of the excavation has been lost sight of. The original intention of the excavation was to provide earth to raise the site of the buildings required for the proposed new station; while it was recognised that the tank so excavated would provide a useful water-supply. When the scheme of a new station was abandoned the excavation of the tank was proceeded with in order that it might hold a sufficient depth of water to prevent it becoming a breeding-place for mosquitoes. It was still recognised that the tank would provide a useful water-supply for the neighbourhood.

(*c*) The bed of the excavated area is 14 feet below the level of the surrounding land.

(*d*) Government do not propose to hold an inquiry. Proposals for utilizing the tank for the purposes of a water-supply are, however, under consideration.

### Transfer of cases from the file of the Subdivisional Officer, Balurghat.

***LV. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of cases transferred from the file of the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat during the years 1919-1920, 1920-19 and 1922; and

(*ii*) the reason assigned for the transfer in each such case?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. LV, showing the number of cases transferred from the file of the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat and the reasons assigned for the transfer in each case.*

In 1919-20, three cases were transferred, as some of the parties prayed for transfer on the ground that they would not get fair and impartial trial.

In 1920-21, six cases were transferred—two cases for the convenience of the parties and four cases on the prayer of some of the parties that they would not get fair and impartial trial.

In 1921-22, five cases were transferred—one case for the convenience of the parties and four cases on the prayer of some of the parties that they would not get fair and impartial trial.

In 1922 (up to 15th August), two cases were transferred, as the Subdivisional Officer was cited as a witness.

### Water-hyacinth.

***LVI. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some by-laws have been introduced by some of the district boards with the sanction of the Government for the destruction of water-hyacinth?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of each of such by-laws?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that these by-laws have become a source of oppression and harassment?

(*d*) Have the Government received any representations from the public on the subject?

(*e*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken on such representations?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** (*a*) The District Boards of Faridpur, Dacca and Jessore only have adopted by-laws for the destruction of water-hyacinth with the approval of Government.

(*b*) Copies of these by-laws are laid on the Library table

(*c*) Government have no information in the matter

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The question does not arise

## Rule as to the sitting of Courts.

***LVII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is any rule as to when and for how long Courts are to sit?

(*b*) If so, has any inquiry been made as to how far that rule is followed?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is dealt with in rule 1, chapter I of the High Court's General Rules and Circular Orders. District Judges at their periodical inspections of the Civil Courts ascertain from an examination of the Court Diary whether the rule is duly observed.

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** What about the courts of the District Judges?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I do not think that this question refers to them. I think it would be better to give fresh notice.

## Amounts drawn annually by the Official Assignee, High Court, Calcutta.

***LVIII. Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the

table a statement showing the amounts drawn annually by the Official Assignee, High Court, Calcutta, as his remuneration from the 1st June, 1917, to the 30th June, 1922?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No LVIII, showing the amounts drawn annually by the Official Assignee, High Court, Calcutta, from 1st January, 1917, to 30th June, 1922.*

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1917 (1st June to 31st December) | 13,660 |
| 1918 | 38,794 |
| 1919 | 38,650 |
| 1920 | 51,970 |
| 1921 | 50,200 |
| 1922 (to 30th June) | 40,300 |

### Visit of the Inspector-General of prisons to Barisal.

***LIX. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state, whether it is a fact, that the Inspector-General of Prisons was a guest of Major Munro, the Superintendent of Barisal Jail, on the occasion of his recent visit to Barisal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is a circuit house, a dâk bungalow or an inspection bungalow at Barisal?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing orders that Inspecting Officers should not put up with, or be guests of, the officers, whose work they may have to inspect?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) The Inspector-General of Prisons did not stop with Major Munro, but he had breakfast with him.

(*b*) There is a circuit house and a dâk bungalow at Barisal.

(*c*) No.

### Scarcity of wagons on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

***LX. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a great scarcity of wagons on the Eastern Bengal Railway, especially at Ishurdi station on the said Railway line?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there has been a great deal of congestion of goods at almost all the stations on the said Railway line?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway to the matter and of requesting them to take such steps as may be necessary to remove the grievance complained of?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** (*a*) and (*b*) The Department have no information on the subject.

(*c*) The attention of the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities will be drawn to the alleged grievance.

## Hunger strike of some political prisoners in the Midnapore Central Jail.

***LXI. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some political prisoners were on hunger strike in the Midnapore Central Jail in the month of June last?

(*b*) If so, what was the cause of the strike and what steps, if any, have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) They refused to be inoculated against cholera and so were segregated until the incubation period was over. They also objected to being classed as special class prisoners. The latter part of the question is not understood.

## Non-co-operation prisoners in jails in Bengal.

***LXII. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of non-co-operation prisoners in all the jails of Bengal on the 31st July, 1922;

(*ii*) the number of such prisoners, who have been proved guilty of breaches of jail discipline with the specific charges against each; and

(*iii*) the additional punishments meted out to them for such breaches of discipline?

(*b*) Was there any independent inquiry by higher authorities to find out the truth or otherwise about the allegations made by the local officers of the jail against the non-co-operation prisoners before enhancing the sentence?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the details of all such cases in the Faridpur, Dacca, Barisal and Presidency Jails, since December, 1921?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (a) (i) Six hundred and ninety-two convicted prisoners.

(ii) and (iii) The time and trouble which the collection of this information would entail is not commensurate with its value; nor is it in the public interest that such details should be published.

(b) The local jail authorities cannot enhance sentences.

(c) The question does not arise.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** With reference to item No. (a) it is stated that the jail authorities cannot enhance the sentences. What I want to know is whether the flogging which has been inflicted by the District Magistrate alone can be called an enhancement of sentence?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I am afraid I do not understand the question.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** I think you cannot put that question. It is asking, I think, for an expression of opinion.

### Activities of the Calcutta Research Tannery.

***LXIII. Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement showing—

(i) the names and qualifications of officers engaged in research work at the Calcutta Research Tannery;

(ii) their scales of pay; and

(iii) the nature of the research work completed and in progress?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that the research work already completed and published has been favourably reviewed in the leather journals of England, America and the other continental countries of Europe; and

(ii) whether the Department of Agriculture and Industries recognise the importance of the research work so far as it relates to the development of the tanning industry of the Province?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the number of apprentices trained up to date at the Calcutta Research Tannery;

(*ii*) their general qualifications; and

(*iii*) how they have been provided in the trade on completion of their training?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) Up to date, altogether five apprentices have left the tannery after completion of their training.

(*ii*) Of these apprentices, three were graduates in Science, one an undergraduate and one a non-matriculate.

(*iii*) Of the graduate apprentices, two have been appointed as Assistant Chemists by Messrs. James Scott & Sons, Ld., Calcutta for their Tannin Extract Factories on Rs. 250 a month with prospects. The third graduate apprentice has been appointed as Assistant Chemist and Technologist in the State Laboratory of Bhopal (C. I.) on Rs. 200 with prospects. The undergraduate apprentice on completion of training has entered the Taxidermy Department of the Calcutta Museum to specialize in taxidermy. The fifth, a non-matriculate, after one year's training in practical tanning was provided with a job as Assistant Tanner in the Tannery of Messrs. A. E. Alexander & Co., Ld., Calcutta, on Rs. 50 a month.

### Statement made by Gopal Chandra Sen of the Barisal Jail.

***LXIV. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement submitted by a prisoner named Gopal Chandra Sen of the Barisal Jail in a proceeding under section 52 of the Prisons Act?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that in the said statement there are some serious allegations against the Jail Superintendent?

(*c*) Have those allegations been inquired into?

(*d*) If so, when, by whom was the inquiry made and with what results?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the political prisoners there are not always told of the jail offences for which they are punished or the duration of the punishments to be inflicted on them?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the punishments under the Jail Code have actually been inflicted on some of the political prisoners for a term longer than those shown in their history tickets?

(*g*) Is it a fact that no opportunity was given to the political prisoners in the Barisal Jail to have a look into their history tickets?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Government have not seen such a statement.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) These questions do not arise.

(*e*) No. Political prisoners are always told of the jail offences they commit and are informed of the duration of punishments to be inflicted on them.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Prisoners' history tickets are for the use of the jail authorities and in view of the fact that when political prisoners were first admitted one or two of them deliberately defaced and tore up their tickets, they have not, as a general rule, been allowed to handle them.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any action would be taken if a copy is placed in his hands?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Yes, I will consider it.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** How did they happen to tear their tickets being not allowed to handle them?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The answer says distinctly that since they did it, they have not been allowed to retain the tickets.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Are the ordinary convicts allowed to retain their tickets?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** In the ordinary course, the tickets are kept with a convict overseer. When a visitor comes to the jail, the tickets are handed out to the convicts so that the visitors can see the tickets belonging to each convict. After this is done they are collected by the warder again.

### Preservation of the residence of Jagat Seth of Mahimpur.

***LXV. Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the former residence of Jagat Seth of Mahimpur in the district of Murshidabad has been declared a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the present residence of the Jagat Seth family has got a marble slab presented by the Government?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that the same slab was intended by the Government to be fixed at the original residence of Jagat Seth?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the old residence of Jagat Seth is being dug and cultivated and some gold coins were found there?

(*e*) Are the Government contemplating declaring more places of historic importance as protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter):** (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) Yes. Government are making inquiries as to whether the excavation should continue or the residence should be brought under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904.

(*e*) The following is a list of the monuments, the protection of which under the Act, is now being considered by Government or the Archæological Department.

New proposals have been or are being made about the protection of the following monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act:—

| Serial No | District | Locality. | Name of monuments | Section of Act under which action is proposed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Birbhum ... | Bhandisvar ... | Two mounds to the north of the village. | 3 |
| 2 | Ditto ... | Bhandirban ... | Bhandisvar Siva temple ... | 3 |
| 3 | Ditto ... | Paikore ... | Sculptures and pillars at the Narayana Chatvara | 18 |
| 4 | Bakarganj ... | Gobindapur ... | Moth ... ... | 3 |
| 5 | Dacca ... | Rampal ... | Baba Adam's Mosque ... | 3 |
| 6 | Dinajpur ... | Gangarampur ... | Ata Shah's Durgah ... | 3 |
| 7 | Ditto ... | Jagadal ... | Mounds ... ... | 20 (*1*) |
| 8 | Ditto ... | Mahisantosh ... | Ruins of a mosque ... | 3 |
| 9 | Khulna ... | Kodla ... | Moth ... ... | 3 |
| 10 | Ditto ... | Sibpur ... | Siva Image ... ... | 18 |
| 11 | Ditto ... | Bharat Bhayna | Stupa ... ... | 3 |
| 12 | Midnapur ... | Sharatani ... | Sahasrahinga temple ... | 3 |

## Weight of Mr. Sasmal.

***LXVI. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the weight of Mr. Sasmal—

(*i*) on the date of his admission to jail,

(*ii*) on the 15th March, 1922,

(*iii*) on the 12th April, 1922,
(*iv*) on the 20th April, 1922,
(*v*) on the 9th May, 1922,
(*vi*) on the 24th May, 1922, and
(*vii*) on the 8th June, 1922?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Mr. Sasmal's weight was as follows on the different dates mentioned:—

(*i*) 216 lbs., (*ii*) 207 lbs., (*iii*) 203 lbs., (*iv*) 200 lbs., (*v*) 200 lbs., (*vi*) 201 lbs., and (*vii*) 198 lbs.

### Disciplinary punishments on non-co-operation prisoners.

***LXVII. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the punishment of whipping, handcuffs and fetters, have been recently inflicted on a number of prisoners convicted of offences in connection with the non-co-operation or similar political movements?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the previous sanction of Government was obtained in each case; and

(*ii*) whether these punishments were inflicted with the sanction of the Hon'ble the Member in charge?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The punishments have been inflicted on prisoners convicted of offences in connection with the non-co-operation movement.

(*b*) (*i*) The previous sanction of Government was obtained in cases where the punishment of whipping was inflicted.

(*ii*) They were inflicted with the sanction of the Governor in Council in the case of whipping and under the Jail Code in the other cases.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** May I inquire who was the Member in charge of the Jail Department at that time?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** At what time?

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** At the time of whipping of prisoners in the Barisal Jail.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I was.

### Inspection note of a non-official visitor of Barisal Jail.

***LXVIII. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Rai Nibaran Chandra

Das Gupta Bahadur, M.L.C., submitted a note to the Member in charge on the 3rd July after his visit to the Barisal jail on the 1st July, 1922?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said note?

(*c*) Has any action been taken by the Government to remedy matters on the points mentioned in the Rai Bahadur's note?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government do not propose to lay a copy of the note on the table as notes by non-official visitors are not intended for publication unless Government for special reasons consider it desirable. The matters referred to in the note were fully investigated by Government.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Was any action taken on these notes?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Necessary action was taken.

## Unstarred Questions.

### (answers to which were laid on the table.)

### Realization of " abwabs " by private landlords in the Sunderbans area.

**163. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given on the 6th July, 1922, to my unstarred question No. 106, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state what are the reasons and evidence for stating that *abwabs* are levied as a rule by the private landlords in the Sunderbans area from their raiyats?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many of the big settlement holders of the Sunderbans area in the Bakarganj district where settlement operations have been completed, have been found to be levying *abwabs* from their tenants?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for holding that non-intervention of middlemen betters the rights of the raiyatwari settlement-holders.

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that as a rule no *salami* is charged by private landlords or given by the tenants of the raiyat class when land is first granted in the Sunderbans area but that on the contrary *taccavi* loans have to be given to help the raiyats in bringing the lands to cultivation?

(*e*) Is it not the general custom that the outer embankments of lands comprised in settlements with large capitalists are also maintained by them and not by the *raiyats* under them?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that private landlords in the Sunderbans area cannot afford to run the risk of leaving the maintenance of outer embankments to raiyats and tenants of small holdings.

(*g*) Is it not a fact that where they accept the service of raiyats in this respect they allow them concession rates in respect of rent?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*) The attention of the member is invited to pages 79 and 80 of the Report on the Settlement of the District of Bakarganj. No other specific inquiry has been made to collect evidence regarding realisation of *abwabs* by private landlords but many instances have come to notice that this is done.

(*b*) Almost all the settlement-holders levy *abwabs*.

(*c*) A raiyat holding direct under Government has to pay the rate of rent fixed by Government but the middleman ordinarily charges a higher rate.

(*d*) No. The information of Government is that the lessees in the Sunderbans as a rule charge *salami* from the tenants even on first settlement and make no advances to the raiyats to bring the land under cultivation.

(*e*) and (*f*) Yes, but instances have come to notice in which the lessees have neglected the outer embankments.

(*g*) No such instances have come to notice.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Is it not a fact that most of the proprietors make advance to the raiyats to bring the land under cultivation?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** Government have no information as regards private arrangements between sub-tenants and raiyats.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** It is most regrettable that, as a matter of fact——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Order! order! you cannot make a speech.

### Revised increased rates of salary of different departments.

**164. Babu BHISHMADEV DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to name the services and departments to which revised increased rates of salary have been sanctioned since 1919, together with the average percentage of increase and the date from which these rates have been given effect to in each case?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased also to make a similar statement as regards the services and departments to which revised scales of salary are proposed to be sanctioned, together with the probable percentage of increase and the dates from which the revision will take effect?

(*c*) Is it a fact that most of the members of the Imperial and Provincial Services have got a large lump sum as back pay?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the principle on which these dates have been chosen?

(*e*) Are the Government aware that there is a considerable amount of hardship and discontent among the subordinate and ministerial services owing to the delay in granting increments to them?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table. Owing to the elaborate calculations it would involve, the average percentage of increase has not been worked out.

(*c*) The member is referred to clause (*c*) and the statement appended to it of unstarred question No. 213 by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta in the Council meeting of the 2nd September, 1921.

(*d*) Revisions of salary of the Imperial Services require the sanction of the Secretary of State. The majority of the revisions of salary of the Provincial Services were sanctioned prior to the local Government being vested with increased powers under the Reforms and in these cases too, either the Secretary of State's or the Government of India's sanction was necessary. The considerations with regard to which these authorities fixed the date of effect of the revision are not known to the local Government. In cases where a revision has been sanctioned by the local Government, the date of effect has been fixed with regard to the availability of funds and the date of maturity of the scheme for revision.

(*e*) That nearly all subordinate services have had their pay revised will be apparent from the statement laid on the Library table in reply to (*a*) and (*b*) above. Salaries of all ministerial officers have been revised with effect from 1st January, 1922. Simultaneous revision of the salaries of all grades of officers would have been an impossible task and a certain amount of delay was inevitable.

## River Surveyors employed by the Port Commissioners of Calcutta.

**165. Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of River Surveyors employed by the Port Commissioners of Calcutta;

(*ii*) their scale of pay; and

(*iii*) their academical qualifications?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the number of statutory natives of India holding the posts of River Surveyors in the Port?

**MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) (*i*) One River Surveyor and 22 Assistant River Surveyors.

(*ii*) River Surveyor—Rs. 1,500. Assistant River Surveyors—Rs. 250—30—400/—450—50—1,200. Probationary Assistant River Surveyors—Rs. 150—25—200.

(*iii*) The qualification required in the case of appointments made for some years past has been the Senior Cambridge Examination.

(*b*) Of the 23 men in the Service, 14 are understood to be natives of India. At present all the Assistant Surveyors are Europeans or Anglo-Indians, but the Port Commissioners have decided to consider applications from Indians for future vacancies.

## Appointments in the Bengal Secretariat Press.

**166. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of vacancies, both permanent and temporary, which have occurred in the office of the Bengal Secretariat Press both at its head office and the branch office, from the 1st April, 1912, to the 31st March, 1922;

(*ii*) the names of the candidates who were appointed to the vacancies with their educational qualifications;

(*iii*) the total number of clerks, typists, etc., in the said office; and

(*iv*) the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians holding those appointments?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*i*) and (*ii*) Over 900 men are employed in the Bengal Secretariat Press and its Branch and in order to compile the information asked for in the question, it would be necessary to examine the monthly rolls for the last ten years and to refer to the appointment papers of candidates, many of which have probably been destroyed. In the opinion of Government the labour involved in this undertaking would be out of all proportion to the value of the results to be obtained.

(*iii*) Number of clerks—28. Number of typists—Nil. Number of Steno-Typists—1 (vacant at present).

It is not understood what is meant by "etc."

(*iv*) Number of Hindus—27. Number of Muhammadans—1. Number of Christians—nil. Total 28.

**Number of literate and illiterate population in the Pabna district.**

**187. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement under the following heads:—

(*a*) percentage of the literate and illiterate population and their number in the Pabna district;

(*b*) the number and classes of literate—

(*i*) males, and

(*ii*) females

in the said district;

(*c*) the number of children of school-going age in the district;

(*d*) the number of males and females who have received English education;

(*e*) the number of educational institutions in the district under the following heads—

(*i*) high schools,

(*ii*) aided,

(*iii*) unaided, and

(*iv*) maintained by the State, both for males and females; and

(*f*) the number of persons who have received—

(*i*) University training, and

(*ii*) degrees?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) One hundred and thirty-four per mille males aged 5 and over are literate and 15 females. For both sexes taken together the proportion is 76. The actual numbers are—

Literates: males 82,359; females 8,940.

Illiterates: males 624,343; females 673,852.

(*b*) (*1*) Hindus—(*i*) 307 literate per mille males aged 5 and over; (*ii*) 48 literate per mille females aged 5 and over.

(*2*) Muhammadans—(*i*) 79 literate per mille males aged 5 and over; (*ii*) 4 literate per mille females aged 5 and over.

(*3*) Animists—(*i*) 364 literate per mille males aged 5 and over; (*ii*) no females.

(*4*) Christians—(*i*) 542 literate per mille males aged 5 and over; (*ii*) 502 literate per mille females aged 5 and over.

(*c*) Two hundred and eight thousand four hundred and twenty-four (aproximately).

(*d*) Information not available.

(*e*) (*i*) 32, (*ii*) 1389, (*iii*) 283, (*iv*) 101.

(*f*) Information not available.

**Revision of several departments and services.**

**168. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the dates from which retrospective effect was given for increment of pay of the various departments and services under Government?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the dates vary for different services?

(*c*) If so, what is the reason for such differential treatment?

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the reply given to a question on the subject put by Babu Bhismadev Das at this meeting.

**Diet money of witnesses in suits.**

**169. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) from what date the practice of paying the unspent diet money of witnesses to the parties' pleaders in civil courts has been stopped; and

(*ii*) the total amount of deposit of the diet money with Government since that time till 1921, year by year?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of Government to issue orders to pay the money to the parties or their pleaders in future?

(*c*) If so, when are the orders to that effect likely to be issued?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:**(*a*) (*i*) The practice of paying unexpended diet money of witnesses to the parties' pleaders in civil courts has not been stopped. Under the old rules pleaders or parties used to be informed of the amount of unexpended or unclaimed diet money. Under the new rules the pleaders or parties may find out what remains in deposit and apply for its refund. After three years the money in deposit lapses to Government.

(*ii*) The information is not available and the time and labour involved in procuring it will not be commensurate with any benefit to be derived from it.

(*b*) and (*c*) The questions do not arise.

**Treatment of non-co-operation prisoners in Barisal Jail.**

**170. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons visited Barisal recently;

(*ii*) whether it is true that some local gentlemen had a discussion with him regarding the treatment of non-co-operation prisoners in the local jail;

(*iii*) whether he told them that he wanted to increase the rigour of punishment in jail for all future breaches of jail discipline; and that the flogging of the prisoners will be more frequently resorted to than heretofore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the statement of the Inspector-General is personal or authoritative?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) It is understood that the Inspector-General of Prisons told an inquirer who wanted to know whether the discipline could not be made easier, that in his opinion it should be tightened. No reference to the punishment of flogging was made by him.

(*b*) This does not require an answer in view of the statement made above.

## Names and designations of the officers in the various branches of the Medical Service.

**171. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names and official designations of the officers of the Indian Medical Service, in civil employ, and posted in Bengal and those of the Provincial and Subordinate Medical Services, who have had no transfers from their present posts during the last ten years; and

(*ii*) the number of such posts which are considered as "prize" posts?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to keep these posts reserved, or to throw them open to all deserving officers of the respective services?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) (*i*) A statement showing the information wanted is laid on the table. The tenure of appointments in the case of Nos. 3 to 6 and 8 is fixed at 5 years in the first instance, but extensions of term are given for exceptional

reasons and where specially indicated in the interests of the service and of Government.

(*ii*) Out of the appointments shown in the table referred to above only 5, viz., Nos. 3 to 6 and 8 may be regarded as posts which most members of the respective services would be glad to obtain.

(*b*) These posts are not reserved for any particular officers but are open to all efficient and meritorious men of the respective services.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 171, showing the list of the names and designations of the officers in the various branches of the Medical Services in this Province who are holding respective appointments for the last 10 years or more.*

| Names. | Designations. | Date since when the appointment is held. |
|---|---|---|
| Indian Medical Service— | | |
| Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Gage. | Superintendent, Botanic Garden. | 31st July, 1906 |
| Civil Assistant Surgeons— | | |
| Babu Mohendra Kumar Chakraverty. | Superintendent, Animal Vaccination Depôt. | 27th August, 1902, page 379 of Civil List. |
| Upendra Chunder Brahmochari, Rai Bahadur | Teacher, Campbell Medical School | 20th February, 1905, page 379 of Civil List. |
| Satish Chunder Banerjee, Rai Bahadur. | Assistant Professor of Physiology, Medical College. | 21st July, 1905, page 380 of Civil List |
| Babu Beni Madhab Chakraverty. | Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry, Medical College. | 1st June, 1912, page 382 of Civil List. |
| Mr. Karuna Kumar Chatterji. | Teacher, Campbell Medical School. | 15th February, 1910, page 382 of Civil List. |
| Babu Surendra Mohan Ghosh (No. 1). | Bacteriologist, Presidency General Hospital. | 15th February, 1908, page 383 of Civil List. |
| Lal Behari Ganguli, Rai Bahadur. | Teacher, Campbell Medical School. | 1st April, 1910, page 383 of Civil List. |
| Babu Lal Mohan Ghosal | Demonstrator of Physiology, Medical College | 2nd February, 1906. |
| Civil Assistant Surgeons— | | |
| *Nil.* | | |

**Raised platforms at the important stations on the Bandel-Barharwa and Howrah-Burdwan Chord lines on the East Indian Railway.**

**172. Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, what action, has been taken in the matter of providing raised platforms at the important stations on the Bandel-Barharwa and Howrah-Burdwan Chord lines of the East Indian Railway, since the answer given to my unstarred question No. 62, on the 19th January last?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** It has been ascertained that the East Indian Railway administration has recently sanctioned the construction of raised platforms at Tribeni and Azimgunge stations on the Bamlel-Barharwa Chord line, but this sanction has not yet been confirmed by the Government of India.

It is not known when funds will be available for the work.

The Minister has no information in regard to the provision of raised platforms at other stations on the Chord lines referred to.

**Damage to jute and autumn paddy.**

**173. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the answer given on the 6th July, 1922, to clause (*a*) of my unstarred question No. 114, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made in the season and crop report published by the Government of India for the week ending 22nd July last to the effect that "damage to jute and autumn paddy on low lands by heavy rain and flood is reported from some districts"?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the names of the districts referred to in the above report and also to make a detailed statement of the crop prospect in respect of each of those districts?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that as a result of the prevailing conditions these areas are threatened with scarcity?

(*d*) If so, what precautionary measures, if any, are the Government taking in the matter?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Report on the Weather and Crops published on pages 1231—34 of the *Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette* of the 26th July, 1922.

(*c*) and (*d*) Government are not aware that on account of these conditions these areas are threatened with actual scarcity. The Commissioners are, however, provided with substantial grants for agricultural loans which they use on the occurrence of any distress resulting from such causes as are mentioned by the member.

## "Bil Boral" scheme in the Narail subdivision of the district of Jessore.

**174. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that the Jessore District Board recommended to the Government the "bil Boral" scheme in the Narail subdivision of the district of Jessore?

(*b*) If so, what action, if any, are the Government taking regarding the said scheme?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The District Board on the 10th June, 1922, decided to take action under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920, and Government have requested that proceedings should now be initiated under section 3.

## Drainage of submerged lands in Burdwan and Hooghly districts for cultivation.

**175. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that owing to heavy rains, places and fields under the jurisdiction of Raona and Khondaghosh thanas in the district of Burdwan and some places and fields under the jurisdiction of Arambag subdivision in the district of Hooghly have been submerged and fields have been rendered uncultivable up to the present time for want of proper drainage?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking immediate steps to drain out the water as far as is practicable, making them fit for cultivation in the current year?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No immediate steps can be taken to drain out this area, for the rivers Damodar and Rupnarain which drain this part of the country are unable to carry off this surplus water.

## Non-official Business.

### Resolutions

### (under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

### Travelling and Residential Allowances of Members.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Yesterday at about 20 minutes to 5, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim had already accepted the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, but I believe there are still some members who wish to speak on the resolution. Though the question was put, I had no time to put it to the vote. I would therefore ask Professor S. C. Mukherji to say what he has got to say.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I rise to a point of order, Sir. The question was put and it was given out by you that the matter would be put to the vote.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I had no time to put it to the vote, because I had already fixed 20 minutes to 5 as the time for the motion for adjournment, and I did not like to waste another 20 minutes for taking the poll.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** A division can be taken now.

**Mr. AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I move that the question be now put.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** As there are a few more members to speak, I think I should allow the debate to go on for a little time longer.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** This question has been discussed at pretty good length and I feel constrained to make one or two observations. The first observation that I should like to make is that the travelling allowance bills are made out according to certain schedule rates fixed by Government. We are not expected to put down our actual expenses, because Government are not prepared to pay them. Government have, therefore, no right to accept anything from us We have every right to please ourselves just as we like. A few months ago there was a strike on the East Indian Railway. On returning from this Council to the Howrah station I was told by the officer in charge of the station that there was no train available for Serampore because of a bad strike. I had to take a taxi and had to pay a pretty heavy sum. (A voice: "You could have walked.") When the matter was reported to the authorities I was told the schedule rate was to be found in the Code. Then, Government, by precise calculation, have found out that the distance between the Howrah station and the Town Hall is 1§ of a

mile, not one inch more nor one inch less; and you must be paid according to the schedule rate of 8 annas a mile. If you take a *ticca* or a taxi, you pay much more than that. But Government are not prepared to pay your actual expenses. If I happen to be a Maharaja and would like to reserve a first class, Government are not prepared to pay for that. Government has one answer and only one answer to give. There are your schedule rates and you must make out your bills according to them. It has been said in this Council that if you draw first class, you are expected to travel first calss. I am not expected to do any such thing. I do not travel first and I am not going to travel first. If the Government are prepared to pay my actual expenses, let the Government say so and I am prepared to put down my actual expenses. Till then I am perfectly at liberty to do just as I like. So far as missionaries are concerned, they do the same thing in the matter of their furlough expenses.

I regret one or two observations that have fallen from my mufassal brethren. I do not think that these observations were made after due consideration. I heard yesterday one member saying that because the mufassal members make a lot of self-sacrifice, therefore, they must have some recompense and we have come here to make sacrifice and if we are not prepared to make that sacrifice, we had better not come to the Council. Certainly we are not justified to have any recompense out of travelling allowance by making more trips than are absolutely required. There is absolutely no difference of opinion in this matter. The question of recompense does not arise at all.

The third observation that I should like to make is the question ought to be looked at from the economic point of view. Here comes the question of double first. I should like to see this double first class knocked on the head from the economic point of view. The question of mileage and other questions should be reconsidered and a proper standard fixed. All these question ought to be discussed in their entirety. I do not see any reason why the Legislative Council members are going to be treated in this manner. What about the Government Departments, Government officers, and Government servants? Why should they go scot-free? If this is a matter which demands reconsideration—if this is a matter which demands a thorough scrutiny, let it be done as one comprehensive question. Why should this invidious distinction be made between the members of the Legislative Council on the one hand and the Government officers and Government servants on the other? What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Let there be one common law—one principle underlying it and let it be applied without any invidious distinction, and in view of that I do not think any resolution ought to be carried on the subject. The matter ought to be considered *de novo*. With due deference to the Hon'ble the Member in charge, I think that his suggestion about a committee ought to be negatived by this House.

**Babu NITYA DHONE MUKHERJEE:** The residents of the various districts of our province who exercised their right of voting during the last election of the members of this Council, must have been very sorry and even ashamed when they went through the reports of the proceedings of yesterday's meeting in to-day's issue of various newspapers. They must have thought that most unfortunately for themselves they had returned such members to the Council who submitted travelling allowance bills and have drawn money, the truth and honesty of which have been called in question. It must have pained them much more when they found that these members failed to defend themselves by arguments, by definite reason or by putting forward facts and figures to show that the statements made against them were incorrect and unfounded; but they tried to gag their opponents by the use of strong, indecent, impolite and offensive language which they were compelled to withdraw.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You need not enlarge upon that.

**Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE:** It is agreed on all hands that a committee to consider the question of payment of travelling allowance in future is necessary. But the proposal to empower the committee to inquire into and report about travelling allowance already drawn has been strongly opposed. But, Sir, what are the points raised against such a proposal? One of the members has said that he has got to come here at a great sacrifice. But, Sir, I may submit that anyone who undertakes to do a public duty cannot do so without making any sacrifice, and it is because some of us incur professional loss in attending Council meetings, therefore, that some money must be earned at any cost is no argument.

Another member has been pleased to throw out the suggestion on the ground that it would cause simple waste of money and time as the members of the committee shall have to go about from district to district, station to station, collecting evidence about the arrival and departure of particular members who have drawn travelling allowance.

It seems, Sir, that the gentleman is under the impression that he has monopolised the power of putting forward suggestions as to the way how inquiries are to be made and that there is no other alternative than what he proposes.

But, everyone knows that definite distinct allegations have been made against many members in the newspapers, but at the time no one raised a voice against it. I ask, what is the reply in such cases when members who have got permanent residences in this town and were found enjoying the comforts of Calcutta, or who carry on professions here, have submitted travelling allowance bills and drawn money? Is there any necessity of going about to ascertain the truth of such allegations? There are cases in which members are supposed to have gone to their residence at week-end and come back on the following Monday. In some cases, if any one sees the time-tables of Railway and Steamer companies, he will find that

only one hour intervenes between the hour of arrival at the headquarters and departure from there. Is any going about necessary for this sort of travelling allowance bills?

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** I am afraid the hon'ble member is absolutely wrong. He is considering another aspect of the question. (Cries of: "Order, order.")

**Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE:** If the allegations are wrong or unfounded, then those against whom these charges have been brought forward, would find in this committee a fine opportunity of defending themselves and proving their innocence. Let them come forward and say: "Let there be an inquiry; we are not afraid of it." We should not try to shelve this question which is really a very important one. Further, the Hon'ble the Member in charge has been pleased to observe that he does not think it at all necessary to hold any inquiry into the matter. But the press and the public have a claim upon Government which should not be overlooked. The public and the press want an inquiry, the members themselves—at least a good many of them— want an inquiry, and, therefore, I do not see any reason why this question should be allowed to be shelved. These proceedings of the Council will go down to posterity and when the future generation will look into them, what would they say? They would say that the first batch of members of the Reformed Council were such as the honesty of their travelling allowance bills were calld into question. These facts give the Government justification to take away the prefix "Honourable" from their names. These facts, I submit, alone justify Government to hold an inquiry into the matter.

**Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** I think I must oppose all the resolutions and amendments on the subject of travelling allowance of members. Mr. Hem Chandra Nasker has set the ball rolling and is, perhaps, laughing in his sleeves at the indecent haste with which all these resolutions have been brought before this Council. With all his earnestness to serve his motherland and with all his patriotic motives, I am afraid, Mr. Nasker did more harm than good by asking the unstarred question No. 151 and the starred question No. LXXV in the meeting of this Council held on the 10th July, 1922, relating to the travelling and residential allowances of the members of this Council. Government readily supplied the information and the answer was both amusing and interesting, and at the same time it served the purpose of opening the eyes of those members, especially of the mufassal members, who were more enthusiastic than others in curtailing the budgeted expenditure of the Government. So much earnestness was shown by Government over this matter that the officers, on whom lay the responsibility of finding out the facts and figures to frame the answers to those questions, in their earnestness to attract the attention of the public, did not care to inquire into the accuracy of the information supplied. I will point out to you only one

fact and I take upon myself the responsibility as to the accuracy of my statement. In answer to question No. 151(3), it was said that the longest duration of a member's stay at his headquarters during week-end or short-trips was only for 22 hours. I challenge the truth of this statement; it is an incorrect statement. During the November session last year there was no meeting on the 26th and 27th November. I left Calcutta for my headquarters at Rangpur on the 25th November at 7-30 P.M. and reached my destination at 11-30 A.M. next morning. I halted there on the 26th and 27th and again left for Calcutta at 10 P.M. on the 27th, as my travelling allowance bills submitted on the 27th November and 7th December, 1921, will show. It is clear, therefore, that I remained at my headquarters for clear 34 hours which exceeds 22 hours by 12. My short-trip travelling allowance bills will show that I was at my headquarters between 34 hours and 41 hours. This is not the case with me alone but also with many other members. So the answer to the question was not correct. May I ask what earthly purpose has been served by those questions, and what earthly purpose would be served by an open discussion or resolutions like these? I am glad that Babu Fanindralal De has withdrawn his resolution, but one still remains and that is of Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra. Dr. Moitra wants an inquiry to be made into the travelling allowance bills drawn by members of this Council. I may tell you, Sir, that personally I am not at all afraid of any scrutiny of my travelling allowance bills. In my district, of the four members, mine is the last place so far as the amount and the number of trips are concerned. My travelling allowance has never reached even to Rs. 3,000, although I come from a distant place like Rangpur; and about short-trips my number is 7 as against 10, 11 and 14 of the fellow-members of my district.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Why are you making a personal explanation? That question does not arise.

**Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** I am sorry, Sir. But what earthly purpose would be served by discussing this question, I fail to understand. My friends, the movers of these resolutions, have probably forgotten that there is an element outside this Council who regards this House as a farce, by whom attempts have been made to ignore the dignity and utility of this House and who takes every opportunity of lowering this House in the estimation of the public. It has provided this outside element with an opportunity of criticising the conduct of the members of this Council on unfounded facts. An open discussion of a resolution like that of Dr. Moitra, I am afraid, would do no good to the people. What privileges have the members of this Council got in comparison with the members of the old Council, the members of which—I have no experience of the old Council, but as Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri said in his speech in the July Session—used to be invited to balls and other ceremonies in the Government House? The other day my friend, Shah Syed

Emdadul Haq, asked a question regarding the travelling allowance of members of this Council. I questioned him about this and he admitted that it was not he who put the question, but it was the President of the Pabna Congress Committee who was the inventor of it. Our position and dignity demand not to open this discussion and abuse each other. A word about the short-trips and travelling allowance and I have finished. The Council does not sit on Saturdays and Sundays and why are we to remain here idle on these days and not look to our own private affairs? Most of the mufassal members—some of whom are members of the Bar and there are many more who are Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of District Boards—have got other duties besides those connected with the Council and committees, and persons residing in Calcutta cannot realise what absence from headquarters means to them. The answer to the question of Babu Hem Chandra Nasker will show that of the 64 members who drew travelling allowance during 1921, only 41 had taken short-trips below ten, and there are many whose trips run between one and nine. The highest figure is 21 and that is against one member only; one member took 18 trips, another member 16 trips, another 15, another 14 and another 13. I bring it to the notice of the Council to show that it was not for the purpose of making money that short-trips are taken by the members. Further, the answer to the question asked by my friend, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, will show that there has been a saving of Rs. 22,000 over this head during 1921.

As to the formation of a committee, I am strongly against the proposal.

**MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** May I say a word here by way of explanation? This House is not responsible for the committee. Government are going to make an inquiry into the matter and revise the rules, and it is for this reason that Government think they ought to have the advice of some members of the Council; therefore, Government have named some members. The Council is in no way responsible for these names.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Government of their own accord are going to constitute this committee.

**Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** I oppose the suggestion put forward by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. It has been said that if we do not form a committee, what would the public say. I submit the public would say nothing, if we remain silent over the matter. It has been said that members while living in Calcutta have drawn travelling allowance. I am quite at a loss to understand how these allegations can be brought forward without facts and figures. It is an absolutely irresponsible statement.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure was then put and a division was taken.

The Ayes being 26 and the Noes 17, the motion for closure was lost, and the discussion continued.

**Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU:** After the reply of the Hon'ble the Member in charge, it is hardly necessary for me to dilate upon this matter which has now been discussed for a fairly long time. The question of travelling and halting allowances has always been a difficult one to deal with. The question has now risen in consequence of a considrable amount of public criticism that has been made about these allowances to the members of the Council. There is a class of critics who desire that the members who come to the Council should not only sacrifice their time and personal labour but also their money and should pay their additional expenses themselves. If such a rule were to be adopted, it would keep out from the Council any but wealthy men, but none of us desire that the Council should consist of wealthy men only. There is another class of critics who are of opinion that the scale of allowances is much too liberal. But the difficulty is to fix a standard of what is liberal. What is liberal to one may not be liberal to another. The rule has hitherto been that every mufassal member is allowed two first class fares for each trip. In travelling, one has to incur considerable expenses besides one's own fare. One has to pay his servants' fare, one's charges for food and other things, so that in many cases two first class fares may not be excessive. In several cases special equipment is necessary for travelling. But a complaint has now been made by some critics that the rules allow of payment to members who leave Calcutta during the currency of the session for their own purposes. Mr. D. C. Ghose has called the attention of the Council to the rules that prevail as regards the allowances to members of the Indian Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State. Under those rules a member who is absent from Simla or Delhi for less than 15 days is entitled to draw single first class fares to his station and back or the daily allowance during the period of his absence—whichever is less. For instance, a member leaves Calcutta for Darjeeling, his station, on Friday and comes back on Monday to join the Council. His charges on the basis of double first class fares would be Rs. 240, whilst his halting charge would be Rs. 20 only. Under the Simla-Delhi rules he would be entitled to Rs. 20 only instead of Rs. 240. Such is the effect of the rules that regulate the travelling and halting allowances of members of the Indian Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State. It must be considered as to whether such rules should also apply to the members of this Council.

There has also been some criticism that some of the members travelled by a lower class but charged double first class. But as I have

already pointed out, the expenses one sometimes has to incur probably exceed the actual fares. All these things render it necessary that the question should be carefully gone into. I regret that charges should have been levelled at some of the members without properly considering the facts. As has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Member in charge, in cases of this nature it is exceedingly difficult to pronounce a judgment. On these grounds, I support the proposal for the appointment of a committee to consider the question of travelling and halting allowances.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I cannot add any beauty or force to the observations that have been made in this House. We have patiently listened to the several criticisms that have been brought forward, and it has pained me that much time has been lost in discussing a subject which could have been solved within two minutes. If the members of the Council ask for the appointment of a committee, the concrete question which has been put forward by several speakers may be answered by the committee. For example, the first mover, Babu Fanindralal De, puts before us the questions as to whether members should be allowed to charge halting allowances if they have a regular place of residence in Calcutta, whether the members should be allowed to draw travelling allowance when travelling between their place of residence in the mufassal and Calcutta or whether rules should now be framed to check the abuses likely to arise from the present system of payment. You have put concrete questions and it is for the committee to answer that. If you refer to the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, the same arguments apply *mutatis mutandis*. Where, therefore, is the necessity for spending such a long time over a subject which is a very simple one? As I said in the last session, if you mean to inquire into the conduct of certain members in preparing their bills, it would be too exacting for you. You must remember that if you prepare the rules and regulations and if you do not conform to them, the fault lies with you. Thousands of rules will be of no avail, if the members do not conform to them. Therefore, it is necessary for the members to consider for a moment that they must discharge their duties according to the code of honour which we all understand. We are responsible men vested with trust and responsibility, and therefore, it is necessary for the members to conduct themselves properly and in all honour. Inasmuch as some difficulty has been felt in interpreting the rules as they are, I beg to submit that it is highly necessary that a committee should be appointed. I therefore support the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I did not intend to take part in this debate, because I had fully discussed the matter at the July Session of the Council. The basic principles of travelling allowances were discussed in that session and yeterday also, the Hon'ble the Member in

charge explained them in full detail. But statements have been made in this Council in course of this debate, which demand an answer, and, I, therefore, get up to say a few words. Every member, who feels for the prestige of this Council, every member, who feels for the dignity of this Council, thinks that an inquiry is needed; but all the same, before the result of the inquiry is published, no member has any right to insinuate that some members had been fudging their bills or have been taking more money than they can honestly take. If some members really believe that there are some who have been cheating Government, the honest course for them would be to make that statement outside the Council Chamber; let them not take shelter within the four walls of this Council and make vague insinuations. Is it not possible for some members to go back to their homes for even a few hours? Can they not have any urgent family reason, or public business which demands their presence at their homes? I challenge those members who have been making such vague insinuations to come outside this Council and state the facts and name the offending members, and they will know how to meet the situation. Let them mention the names. As long as the Civil Service Regulations exist, as long as the present rules exist and as long as the Legislative Department does scrutinise every bill, I do not think that any member has a right to say that some members have been fudging their bills. That means that the Government and the Legislative Department have been conniving at this fudging; that is absurd and is impossible. Let the rules be changed. I admit that the rules may be changed safely both for the members of this Council and also for the Government officers. But until the rules are changed, I do not think that anybody has the right to make vague insinuations ("Hear, hear"). The greatest surprise I had in my life was to hear the speech of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik. I am sorry that matters are coming to such a pass, that we seem to be at the parting of the ways. I say that men, who serve their motherland on Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 a month, have no business to be sarcastic about members of this Council, who serve their motherland by taking travelling allowances, which are meant only to recoup them for their actual out-of-pocket expenses. I say that they have no business to be sarcastic; it is unjust, it is unfair and it is improper ("Hear, hear").

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** I rise to a point of order. Is that not a personal remark?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I do not think so.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I welcome this inquiry committee. They will go into the details of the question and would devise such rules and rates which would be acceptable both to the members of this Council and also to the Government. Until the report of that committee is out, I beseech the members of this Council to refrain from

making base insinuations. That does not speak well for the dignity of the Council.

**Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN:** After such a long discussion by the members, I had no mind to speak at any length about the resolutions that have been moved by several of my friends. I will only point out one thing. Other speakers before me have pointed out the necessity of week-end journeys of the mufassal members to their homes and I may point out that there are some legal practitioners here among the members of this Council who are in duty bound to go to their mufassal homes in order to attend to their clients specially on Saturdays on which miscellaneous cases and appeals are fixed. So, as they have got their duties towards their constituency they have equal duties to perform towards their clients. Thus, if these week-end journeys are refused, it would cause some hardship to those members of the Council who belong to the legal profession and also to those who are members of the district and local bodies.

With these words, I refuse to give my assent to all the motions that have been moved in this Council.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** Yesterday I was surprised at the heat of the discussion and the great leniency shown by the President who allowed even such phrases as base insinuations in respect of a member as parliamentary, a decision to which I do not object, for many of us have had worse epithets used against us; and I, for one, have never objected though I challenge anybody to find any expressions like these in the voluminous record of my speeches during the last two years. Many will probably smile at me as the injured innocent; but I desire them to look at the reports and judge. You will presently see how the supposed great abuser behaves. A whole day was spent in absolutely useless rhetoric yesterday. We have much work to do and we have done little. I rubbed my eyes when I looked at the numerous resolutions standing in the names of the injured innocents of this Council. I wondered whether most of them would not be pressed or would finally be modified to innocuousness. The first resolution, which spoke of gentlemen and noblemen living in their residences at Calcutta drawing Rs. 10 a day, was withdrawn. The third resolution spoke of an inquiry committee, but when the mover moved the resolution, he left out the demand for an inquiry and proposed a suggestive committee. The Government, which delights in futilities, at once accepted the amended resolution. But the question is: are we to sanction this piece of futility? The whole country is speaking of the monies taken by the members of the Council and the Ministers. They speak of it more than they speak of the political prisoners. Are we going to burke the question? The injured innocents of this Council, in just indignation, become angry; and in the words of the poet, they show a countenance like that of Durbasha with his flaming locks and a visage distorted with

contortions. Now, Sir, we are here as the representatives of the people. The people demand that we should do them service and not take any money improperly. I know that there are poor men amongst us who do not break the law and only take what is allowed by the law to the gazetted officers and if they save anything, every gazetted officer does that. But what to speak of gentlemen and the noblemen who have residences here and who take Rs. 10 a day? I tried my best to find an excuse for them, but in spite of my supposed ingenuity I could find none.

The country demands that we should be pure; it demands that there should be an inquiry into this matter, this very grave scandal. We have not been pure like Sita—even she, the purest of womankind—who was obliged to go through the ordeal of fire by the most loving of husbands recorded in history or fiction. I want to know why should there not be an inquiry, why should there be any "but"? It seems to me that all these resolutions are simply intended to burke an inquiry. I cannot accept anyone of them and they must, therefore, be rejected altogether. What right has the Government to come forward of its own motion, to say that we should be a party to a futile suggestive committee? ("Hear, hear.") Why should we add insult to injury? We must not be insulted by Government. If anyone is guilty, we shall punish him. We want a committee of our own, not a committee by our judges and our traducers. Why the Government should interfere in this matter, we cannot see. Let them do so hereafter. But here the question is—Are we going to have this committee of futility? I say—"No, nothing of the kind whatever."

**Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI:** I do not want to prolong the discussion at this fag-end of the day. It has been made clear by Mr. Campbell Forrester when he moved his resolution about a fixed allowance to members of Council that a thing of this kind was coming; in fact, he prophesied that such a thing would come and if his suggestion was accepted there would have been no necessity for this discussion. He suggested the payment of a certain sum annually—Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 3,000—or whatever the budget could afford, to all members excluding, of course, the officials. The sum and substance of the arguments of the town members, who moved the resolution, is that the mufassal members are making some profit out of their travelling allowances and that must be stopped. I hope that most of the members will agree with me that a committee as suggested by the mover, is not necessary as the Government have ample powers to revise the rules departmentally In fact, while I was in Simla, I was told by the members of the Legislative Assembly that they themselves volunteered information on the subject and the Legislative Department made alterations about travelling allowance for week-end journeys and that is what

we should do and not allow three or four of us to sit in judgment upon the rest as they propose doing by constituting a committee.

**Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** It is a matter for very great regret that in the debate on the question of travelling and residential allowances so much heat should have been introduced. As a matter of fact, language has been used in this connection which ought not to have been used at all. So far as the demand for an inquiry is concerned, I must make it absolutely clear that I do not support this demand. I cannot persuade myself to believe that any useful purpose will be served by reopening old sores which would be calculated to create more bitterness in this Council. I feel that there is a good deal of force in all that has been said by my friend, Kumar Shib Shekareswar Ray; and I have no hesitation in supporting his amendment. Vague charges have been made in this Council in connection with the drawing of travelling allowance in particular; and my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, has challenged the levellers of these charges to come outside the Council Chamber so that they might be proceeded against according to the provision of law. As a matter of fact, I do not understand what was the harm on the part of those members in levelling the charges, although I am not in favour of making any charges against anybody in the Council; but I think that if any charges have to be made at all they must be absolutely impersonal. It is desirable that no personalities should be introduced, whatever the nature of the charges may be. In connection with the debate on the resolution of my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, if I remember aright, the Hon'ble the Member in charge made it absolutely clear that the principle on which travelling allowances were allowed was this, that it was intended to cover the actual expenses only and that it was not open to anyone claiming that allowance to make it a source of profit. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member in the course of his speech yesterday that the members were perfectly entitled to submit their bills according to the rules as they now stand and it is for this reason that it is felt that some modifications of the rules are necessary in order that there may be no abuse. If that be so, I see no reason why we should not support the demand for modification of the rules. There may be modifications in various directions and it is with that object in view that a committee has been demanded. Let us not by any means anticipate the decision of this committee, whatever it may be; but I do not really understand why the proposal for the appointment of a committee for making suggestions and not for making an inquiry into what happened in the past should be resisted.

With these words, I would support the amendment of my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

**Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** Although I am a town member, I endorse the opinion expressed by Professor S. C. Mukharji. What the hon'ble member seem to forget is that the scale which has

been fixed is an impersonal scale which has to be conformed to if an hon'ble member desires to recoup himself for any of the expenses that he may have incurred in travelling or halting. Not only is he entitled to draw it, but he must draw it according to that scale if he desires to pay for his expenses. I regret, indeed, that this matter should have been brought before this Council and that the agitation of those papers which have consistently from the beginning attempted to belittle the dignity and the prestige of the Council should have found a voice here. I can feel the hand of some interested people whom the Council has taken to task for their misbehaviour. In these resolutions, which we are discussing at the present moment, the language that has been used does not add to the sobriety, the dignity, the wisdom or the prestige of this Council, and I therefore strongly oppose all the resolutions which have been put forward, viz., those that ask for an inquiry or even those that require a committee.

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** I have no intention of speaking on this subject, but I would say only two words. Members draw travelling allowance according to certain rules and if any member was found to have defrauded the Government the matter should have been brought to the notice of the Government, the indiscriminate insinuations and attacks so lightly indulged in by some of the members do not add to the dignity of the Council.

The resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was then put in the following amended form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed consisting of ten members of the Council with the Hon'ble the Member in charge as President to make any suggestions which they may think fit as regards the whole question of travelling and residential allowances of this Council."

A division was then taken with the following results:—

**AYES.**

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Dutt, Mr Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.

**NOES.**

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Rishi, Babu Rashik Chandra.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

The Ayes being 38 and the Noes 37, the motion was carried.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** As the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has been carried, I think that the resolutions of Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq fail. I shall now put the resolution of Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra to the vote.

**Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA:** In view of the fact that the resolution standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has been carried, I do not like to press my resolution. I beg to withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

## Increase of residential allowance.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that the residential allowance of the members of the Bengal Legislative Council be increased to Rs. 25 per day.

The Calcutta members of the Council are going to decrease the travelling and residential allowances of the mufassal members. Perhaps they are jealous, otherwise why should they raise this question when they had passed the Ministers' salaries amounting to Rs. 1,92,000? They supported the Ministers then and the Ministers support them now. The mufassal members of the Council drew about Rs. 1,50,000 whereas the three Ministers drew Rs. 1,92,000.

**Mr. S. M. BOSE:** Is he in order?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think he is in order.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN:** If we can contribute so much for the comfort of three men, can we not sacrifice a little for the comfort of 100 members? The Calcutta members do not understand the troubles which the mufassal members undergo in coming up to attend the meetings of the Council and the inconveniences they are put to here as they have no houses of their own like Mr. Fanindralal De and others that moved the other resolutions. Though I may not be supported by a good many of the European and other influential members of this Council, I will not hesitate to press for what is just and proper. In England, the Members of Parliament get £400 a year besides free railway pass, postage stamps and paper. If we are following the precedent of the British Parliament in other respects, why not in this respect also? It may be said that Bengal is not so rich as England, but if we are paying our Members and Ministers on a scale prevailing in England, why should we grudge the mufassal members this little concession? Perhaps the Government consider that to pay the members of this Council any extra allowance is waste of money or *baje baya*. The Members of the Legislative Assembly, who formerly drew Rs. 10 as residential allowance per day, now draw Rs. 15 *plus* Rs. 5 as motor allowance besides free accommodation, whereas the unfortunate mufassal members of this Council get no residence, or motor allowance or anything of that sort. The condition in the Legislative Assembly and the Local Council is almost the same and I cannot understand this difference in the scale of residential allowance. In the name of justice, I demand Rs. 25 as residential allowance. Many gentlemen make week-end trips in order to recover the expenses incurred at the time of election. Of course this is an indirect way of doing things, but if my proposal be accepted there will be no necessity for it. If you do not grant this concession to the members coming from the mufassal, who generally belong to the middle class and are not therefore well-to-do, this Council will be a Council of the rich and not of the poor; this Council will be aristocratic and autocratic but not democratic, and your democratic form of Government will be at an end.

**Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM** being absent, the following resolution, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to raise the residential allowance of the members of the Bengali Legislative Council from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per day."

**Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY** being absent, the following resolution, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to fix a suitable annual allowance not exceeding Rs. 1,200 per annum, for all non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council, in lieu of their travelling and residential allowances."

**Maulvi SHAH ABDUR RAUF:** I oppose this resolution. This Council has just now passed the amendment of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray and I think that it is sufficiently comprehensive in its nature as the whole question of travelling and residential allowances of the members of this Council will be dealt with by a committee. So, I beg to oppose this resolution.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** As the last speaker has pointed out, the amendment of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has been carried and a committee will soon be appointed to inquire into all the questions raised as regards travelling and residential allowances, I trust that the House will not accept the resolution that has been moved by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan in view of the fact that the whole matter will be inquired into by a committee.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN:** I would be glad if the Hon'ble Member would include me on the committee (Laughter.)

The motion was then put and lost.

## Provincialisation of Pabna Middle English Girls' School.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** The resolution that I have to move is this:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the Middle English Girls' School at the headquarters of the Pabna district, be provincialised at an early date."

This school was established so early as in 1863 by a public-spirited resident of the town of Pabna. It was originally a small primary school with a staff of both male and female teachers, and little boys were admitted along with girls. In course of time, it came to be an institution for girls alone, and was raised to the status of a Middle English School in 1915. The management of the school is vested in a committee of which the District Magistrate of Pabna is the *ex-officio* President, and the staff consists of six qualified female teachers. The number of pupils on its rolls last year was about 100 on an average, but owing to unforseen causes, has now fallen off to about 70.

It was in the contemplation of the late Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to provincialise the school, and with that end in view, they spent large sums of money for its improvement. A fine site situated in the centre of the town was acquired by them at a considerable cost, and a decent *pucca* building for the school with attached quarters for the mistresses was erected in 1911 with a Government grant of Rs. 12,945. The only defect of the school premises was the absence of a compound wall, and this was probably the reason why the school did not attract a sufficient number of grown-up pupils in the upper classes

for a number of years. This defect has since been removed by the erection of a *pucca* compound wall at a cost of about Rs. 3,000 (two-thirds of which were contributed from the public revenues), and it is expected that the school will now gradually flourish, if it can be maintained in a state of efficiency. That the school has begun to do good and useful work is shown by the fact that two girls who presented themselves at the last Middle English Examination both passed the examination very creditably and won Government scholarships.

The continued efficiency of the school, however, will necessarily depend to a large extent upon its finances. The present working expenses amount to about Rs. 350 per month, while the average income from fees and other sources (including a monthly Government grant of Rs. 165) is only Rs. 225 per month. The purses of its local supporters are being taxed to the utmost in meeting this heavy deficit, month after month, and the committee are apprehensive that unless something can be done in the near future to place the school on a sound financial footing their work may come to a deadlock at any time for want of funds. They, therefore, respectfully urge the Government to take up the management of the institution in their own hands, and to raise it at their discretion to the status of High English school. A well-equipped girls' school at the headquarters of a district is a real desideratum, its need being keenly felt not only by the local people but also by the officials stationed there, who cannot, under existing social conditions, afford to send away their girls from home for their education. There are Government High Schools for girls in the districts of Mymensingh and Chittagong, and there is no reason why Pabna, which in respect of education is more advanced than many other districts of the Presidency, should not have one. In the circumstances set forth above, Government are respectfully requested to take early steps for the provincialisation of the Pabna Middle English Girls' School.

With regard to this there are certain other factors. There are a large number of Hindu residents in the town of Pabna, they are orthodox Hindus and they have set up a girls' school called the Mahakali *pathsala* and there the girls are being taught on a purely religious basis, and they do not look upon this school as a very favourable one for their girls, but nevertheless, there is an important section resident in the town, who have discarded the old habits and there are also some officials whose girls must be given sufficient education in order to fit them for modern society, and also some Muhammadans who usually send their girls to this school. They cannot send their girls to this Mahakali *pathsala* where religious teachings are imparted and there is no provision for admitting Muhammadan girls. This year there are some Muhammadan girls of high class, and after they have passed their Middle English examination, they are quite helpless as they cannot send their girls to other distant stations. At one time it was thought that

the school would have to be reduced to the status of the Middle Vernacular standard instead of Middle English, but at the request of the Muhammadan residents and the officials and other Hindus of improved ideas this school has been maintained at a considerable sacrifice by some gentlemen, and also with the help of the District Magistrate who has taken much pains for securing funds for this school. It may be argued —Where is the justification for taking up this particular school when other schools in the province remain aided by Government without being managed exclusively by Government? In reply to that I beg to say that there are district headquarters where there are many Rajas and Maharajas and other rich men who can well afford to maintain aided Middle English schools. But as regards Pabna, there are no Rajas and Maharajas, but the people are only middle class men, some pleaders and others, among whom the number of orthodox Hindus is greater than that of the other class, so this school has got justification for preferential treatment and for being taken over by Government. In some places, there are some schools with a greater number of pupils, but as regards attainments and other things, this school has secured a favourable position. As I have already said, last year two girls were sent up from this school and both of them passed in the first division, and got Government scholarships and this year too, there are girls who are expected to make some figure in the examination. In the Intermediate classes also there are a good number of girls and if this school is not continued in the Middle English status, they will find it very difficult to continue their studies and will have to go somewhere else. As regards the Hindus they can send their girls to distant places, but as regards the Muhammadans they cannot send their girls to places where there is no proper arrangement for their custody. So I put this resolution before the Council for favourable consideration, and hope they will not grudge the amount that will be required for provincialising this school.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** delivered his speech in Bengali in support of this resolution, a translation of which is as follows:—

Although a similar resolution stands in my name, my colleague, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, has said all what I had to say in this regard. I would only move the resolution and before I resume my seat, I should add that as female education is the only source of uplifting us in the path of progress, every possible facilities should be afforded to the Bengali girls for the advancement of learning in this country.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** I beg to oppose the motion of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed for provincialisation of the Pabna Middle English Girls' School. I think that this Council is not a fit place where such purely local questions should be considered. The Council is a provincial Council and only such matters as relate to the well-being of the province as a whole should come before

the Council for its decision and consideration. The Council should deal with matters which are of interest to the province as a whole. It should deal with matters which are of general public interest for the whole of the province. It should deal with the policy which ought to be pursued by the Government as a whole. It cannot deal with such petty local matters as provincialisation of a Middle English School at Pabna. I beg to point out that the provincialisation of this Middle English School will give rise to serious heart-burning and comment in other district headquarters where such schools exist, and are run from local sources. It will give rise to a feeling among the constituency that the members for their constituency are unable to push forward their case, and so their middle schools have not been provincialised, and I beg to submit that such a feeling is not good for the member who happens to represent the said constituency. I also beg to submit that if such petty local matters be discussed in the Council, and a decision be given, then the other subjects of all-Bengal importance will be excluded for want of time. Local matters may be discussed in the local bodies. If the District Board or Municipality is of opinion that the case of Pabna Girls' Middle English School is quite different from other schools of similar type, they may forward their recommendation to the local educational officer, and I have no doubt that he will consider the case and submit his recommendation to the Government for the provincialisation of the same. The Council ought not and should not give its decision and recommend provincialisation of the local institution without due inquiries and report of a responsible official. The other day the Pabna Technical School has been provincialised and now the proposal is to provincialise the Middle English School, and there will be a further proposal to provincialise the primary school. While every institution at Pabna will be run by Government, the case of other districts will remain in the background. This will not be fair. If this Middle English School is provincialised, let all other such schools be so done, and unless and until we are in a position to do so, as a matter of policy, we should not do so in case of Pabna.

Then there is another aspect of the case. It is well-known to every member of this Council that the cost of running a Government school is thrice as much as a private school. The pay of teachers, servants and clerks of a Government school is much higher than that of a private school. Thus with the amount which you will spend in provincialising this school, you can subsidise and help 4 such schools and I have no doubt that if the Government offer a substantial part of expenses, many more schools will be established. Thus by provincialising this school, instead of helping, you retard the growth of education.

For the reasons I have indicated, I beg to oppose this resolution and ask the hon'ble mover to withdraw the same and try the same locally as it is a local matter.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** As a matter of this nature affecting the local interest of the town of Pabna only has been brought before the Council, I would start by placing certain facts about this particular school before the Council. It appears that this school has only 64 pupils; out of these 64, there are only 7 pupils in the first three classes; the bulk of the pupils are in the lower classes. At the present moment the Government grant is Rs. 165 a month and the local contribution including fees and municipal grants is a similar amount. The salary of the head mistress is Rs. 75, that of the second mistress Rs. 50, and so on, and there are altogether 6 mistresses including the head mistress to teach these 64 pupils. Besides, there are maid-servants, provision for library contingencies and so on, so that it cannot be said that for 64 pupils the Government aid is not sufficient. But the question has a very important bearing; if we provincialise this school, according to the estimate prepared by the Education Department, the ultimate cost will be Rs. 8,000 a year, and the immediate cost will be about Rs. 6,000 a year. Is there any reason, when a similar demand is made from another district, and especially from a district where the need is greater and self-help is better, that we should refuse such a demand? I should say we cannot in justice and in fairness refuse such a demand from another district, where, instead of 64 pupils, there are more. In this very division, the Inspectress in charge of Girls' Education reports:—

> I am not pleased with the working of this school. Personally I am not in favour of provincialising this school, if funds are available I would recommend the provincialisation of two schools, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri, especially the Jalpaiguri School

So if the Council were to accept this resolution, it ought at the same time to remember that I cannot possibly provincialise the Pabna school, at any rate before provincialising the Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur schools. That means an additional expenditure of something like Rs. 20,000; we can very usefully spend this amount in increasing the grant-in-aid of many other schools instead of trying to improve this school alone, where there is so little demand; it will do a lot of good if we spend a couple of thousands on other schools where there is considerably more demand and signs of self-help. Paradoxical as it may seem, I maintain that provincialisation of schools, instead of extending education, has the effect of limiting education. Although the question has arisen in connection with a local matter, it carries me to an important question of principle. Whether it be education of girls or boys, unless we improve education as a whole, it is no good having a few schools of a superior type maintained by the State. Take, for instance, the education of boys. If I had the money I would not increase 10 more provincialised schools, but would increase the grant-in-aid of every private school in this province so that teachers may receive better salaries, and that would improve education as a whole. We must not look upon improving 2, 3, 4, or even 10 or

20 schools but we must attempt, so far as possible, to improve all schools including the private schools. From that point of view I am opposed to this resolution. At the same time I appreciate this, that unfortunately in India, girls' education is more or less in a backward state, and I am therefore prepared to consider all applications for increased grants provided there is genuine self-help. In laying down the principle of self-help, I am prepared to take into account local conditions. Taking into account local conditions, if I find that those who are genuinely interested in the expansion of girls' education have done their best, I can say that there will be no backwardness on the part of the Education Department to give increased help to those institutions. After all, though the grant-in-aid rules are on a half-and-half basis, yet the Director of Public Instruction has full power to increase the basis of these grants. I would advise my hon'ble friend, who has moved this resolution, to approach the Divisional Inspectress and the Director of Public Instruction in this matter, and I do not think there would be any backwardness on their part, provided there is evidence of self-help.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** I am very much pleased to hear certain broad principle with regard to the educational policy of the province. I hope the remarks just now made will be followed in all their intensity and in all their aspects. For the last three years I have been submitting in the annual reports of the district board that the system of having Board's primary school, instead of all aided schools, is not a salutary one; this should be abandoned and the entire amount should be distributed over a large number of schools; that would help local activities and local aids, but nothing has been done. Last year also there were some instructions for constructing some *panchayeti* schools without spending money in the shape of grants-in-aid. Now that I have got this assurance from the Hon'ble the Minister that this will be the policy in the province, and that my case may be favourably considered when it comes through the Inspector of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction, I shall withdraw my resolution. But nevertheless, I must say something in reply to my friend who has raised a very serious question. He has said that this is a very petty matter and should not come before the Council, and that it is a local matter and should be considered in the locality. My friend forgets it is the individual tree that forms the wood. If we look at the improvement of the individual tree and nurture it and take proper care of it, in time you will find a beautiful garden and a beautiful wood. If you go on talking of provincial matters without attending to the local needs, you are likely to be lost in the wood without taking care of trees. Then again, my friend has said that this scheme of Pabna has no justification. Very well, I ask my friend to remember this and stick to it. The other day, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture made a large provision for his constituency in the district for irrigation. If I raise the question that Bankura has no claim for such a

large provision whatever, while other districts are neglected, where would my friend be and what answer would he make to this Council? He would be the first to protest that his constituency would die of starvation; it is a bad policy after all to rise up and say that local needs should be looked to by the local people, and this Council has nothing to do with it. I ask my friend to remember that in the next budget there will be a large demand for his constituency, and I shall then know what answer to give, with regard to his demands at that time.

I beg to withdraw my resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

## Supply of pure cow's milk.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I move that this Council recommends to the Government that a committee, consisting of four official members to be elected by the Government and eight non-official members to be elected by the non-official members of this Council, be appointed to consider what steps should be taken for increasing the supply of pure cow's milk, and for developing agriculture in Bengal, and to submit a report as early as possible.

This is a question in which every person is interested, be he an Indian or European, Hindu or Muhammadan, and, Sir, invalids and infants are vitally interested in this question of milk-supply. I would, therefore, draw your attention to the memorial submitted by the All-India Cow Conference Association to the Government of India for the appointment of a committee to go into this matter. This Association consists of Europeans and Indians, Hindus and Muhammadans—an Association of which the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Greaves is the Vice-President, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe is the President. It appears from that memorial that the number of cattle in India is quite inadequate, and that the number of bullocks for cultivation is also quite inadequate. In the case of the number of cattle, in Australia it is 259 per hundred of the population, in Uruguay in South America it is 500, while in India it is only 59. We require four pairs of cattle for the cultivation of 19 acres of land, but we have not got more than one pair of cattle for the same. The reason why the price of food-grains is so high, is that the outturn of crops in India is very meagre, and consequently prices have been going up from year to year. I will take the case of wheat. In Denmark the outturn of wheat is 33 bushels per acre, in Japan it is 32, in Egypt it is 29, while in India it is 11·5 bushels per acre. That is the reason why the price of wheat has gone up. Then in 1857, it was sold at 39 seers per rupee, in 1890 it was 25, and in 1918 it was 5½ seers, so it appears that owing to scarcity and the inadequate number of cattle, the price of food-grains has been going up. Now I will give some particulars about milch-cows.

The number of milch-cows is also quite inadequate; we require two pints of milk every day per head, but what is the supply? Only one-eight of what is required. It is a quarter pint. In England, we find that the supply of milk is 20 lbs. per day per cow, while in India it is not more than 2 lbs., that is the reason why the price of milk is so high. In 1857, milk used to sell at 4 maunds a rupee, in 1890 it was 14 seers, and in 1918 it was 4 seers, and now we find, specially in Calcutta, it is not more than 3 seers a rupee. In the mufassal also, there is a scarcity of milk; what is the result of this scarcity? The vitality of the people of India has been seriously affected. The reports from the municipalities and district boards show that they are trying their best to improve the sanitary condition of the people by incurring heavy expenditure, but notwithstanding this expenditure the rate of mortality has been going up from year to year and it appears that the rate of mortality in India is 38 per thousand; in New Zealand it is not more than 10, and in Norway it is 15. That is the reason why the rate of mortality from phthisis in India has gone up from 38,435 in 1902 to 1,00,192 in 1912. I would draw your special attention to the rate of infant-mortality. In New Zealand, it is 32 per thousand, in Holland 50, but in India 260·7, in Calcutta 386, in Burdwan 307 and in Birbhum 301. We also find that in Calcutta the rate of infant-mortality amongst the Anglo-Indians is 227 per thousand, amongst Hindus 361 and amongst Muhammadans 449. It thus appears that amongst the Anglo-Indians who can afford to purchase milk, the rate of infant-mortality it not very high, but amongst the Muhammadans who are generally poor and who cannot afford to purchase milk at such a prohibitive price, the rate of infant-mortality is very heavy. That is the reason, Sir, why I suggest certain remedies for the consideration of the proposed committee. I do not mean to say that they must accept the suggestions without going thoroughly into the matter. What I do suggest is that we should have a committee to go through these suggestions. The first suggestion is the provision of pasture-grounds. In Great Britain, we find one-third of the area is reserved for pasture-grounds, but in Bengal it is one-seventeenth. As regards the grazing area per cattle in Bengal, it is not more than ·37. It may be that Government has been taking certain steps, but I have gone through the Bengal Administration Report and the reports of mufassal municipalities. What do we find there? Practically no steps have been taken. The Gaekwar of Baroda has legalised to the effect that in every village the area of pasture-grounds should be one-tenth of the total area. What I would suggest for the consideration of the proposed committee is that the local authorities should be authorised to provide pasture-grounds and stud-bulls and that the Government should be kind enough to make a substantial contribution towards the expenditure. It has been admitted by the Hon'ble the Member in charge, as will appear from the proceedings of this Council, that the question of stud-bulls is hopelessly

insufficient in Bengal. It is really so. We find that the total number of stud-bulls is only 132 for the whole of Bengal. May I ask, Sir, whether it is sufficient? Certainly not. Then, Sir, I admit that under the Bengal Municipal Act, the local authorities have been empowered to provide stud-bulls. There is no such provision under the Local Self-Government Act—no such provision even in the Village Self-Government Act. That is the reason why I suggest that the local authorities should be called upto provide stud-bulls.

As regards the fodder crops, it is also insufficient. In the United States of America, we have one cow per acre, but in India it is very insufficient. In spite of this fact, the Government has been allowing export of a heavy quantity of fodder-crops from India to foreign countries without even levying a duty on these goods It appears from the Maritime Trade Report of Bengal that oil-seeds of the value of 6 crores of rupees are allowed to be exported from Bengal to foreign countries.

I would also suggest the provision of veterinary dispensaries. We all know the rate of mortality of cattle everywhere. It is most regrettable that in Bengal, even in Calcutta, there is not a single veterinary charitable dispensary. In the mufassal it is, as everybody is aware, absolutely necessary that there should be veterinary dispensaries What do we find? In the whole of Bengal, the total number of veterinary dispensaries is 31, and most of them are not charitable dispensaries. It is a well-known fact that we have been getting milk of the worn-out and diseased cows. This is also one of the reasons why the rate of mortality specially infant-mortality is so very heavy. What I would therefore suggest is that Government may be pleased to increase the number of veterinary dispensaries.

Then, Sir, I would draw attention to the indiscriminate slaughter of cows. Well, I have no objection to the slaughter of useless cows or bullocks, but I beg to submit that cows are slaughtered not only for human consumption but also for the supply of hides and thus a heavy quantity of hides are exported from India to froeign countries; and I have noticed that whenever the price of hides goes up, the number of cattle slaughtered is also increased. Therefore it appears that the number of cows slaughtered is proportionate to the price of hides and the greater the export of hides the greater the slaughter. Therefore, it appears that cows are slaughtered not only for human consumption but also for the supply of hides and that a heavy quantity of dried meat is exported from Bengal through Calcutta. As regards the export of hides, about 8 millions of them are exported from Bengal alone to the United States of America as well as to the United Kingdom. I admit, Sir, that cows should be allowed to be slaughtered on the occasion of the Muhammadan festivals. I know that some of the poor Eurasians of Calcutta eat beef and I also know that some of the poor Muhammadans take it, beef being cheaper than any other meat. My contention is this

that we should take such steps as we can to increase the supply of milk as well as to increase the supply of beef. The third object is to develop agriculture. Unless and until we increase the cattle, we shall not be able to develop agriculture. There is another thing which stands in the way of improvement of cattle and that is the practice of *phooka* especially in Calcutta. Milch cows are wasted by the practice of *phooka* by *goalas*. The Director of Agriculture in his letter No. 965, dated the 29th of January, 1921, says that from the agricultural point of view, the matter is likely to prove disastrous as the slaughter of the best breeding cows and of the calves reacts on the supply of plough cattle on which the whole agricultural industry in Bengal depends. As it is, good plough cattle are becoming more and more difficult to obtain and the prices are year after year rising higher and higher. In some parts of India, it may be possible to partially replace plough cattle by means of power tractors, but this is not possible in Bengal as the holdings are very small and the fields so irregular and small in size. This is the reason, Sir, that the proposed committee should go into the question as to avoid indiscriminate slaughter of cows and bullocks with a view to increasing the supply of milk and with a view to developing agricultural resources of the country as suggested by the Director of Agriculture. It is stated that only the useless cows are slaughtered. Though I am a Hindu I must say that I have not the slightest objection if the useless cows are slaughtered for human consumption, but I strongly object to the slaughter of useful cows, the prime cows, the milch-cows and the cows which are useful for breeding-purposes. It appears from a report that in the district of Murshidabad aged cows are not slaughtered. In the district of Jessore and Malda, middle-aged cows are generally slaughtered. In the district of Darjeeling, the diseased and worn-out cattle are not allowed to be slaughtered. So it appears that in certain districts it is the middle-aged cows which are slaughtered, it is the prime cows which are allowed to be slaughtered. Therefore, I would suggest that the committee should submit certain suggestions for the consideration of the Council so that useless cows and bulls may be allowed to be slaughtered and not the prime cows or the cows that are useful as are being done in some of the districts in Bengal. Then a large number of cows are exported. It appears from the memorial which I have already referred to, that the result of the increase of export from India has been the increase in the rise of food-stuffs. The question should be considered in that light. They are not only exported for the purposes of being slaughtered but also for breeding purposes and our Government has been allowing them to be exported to America and other foreign countries without even raising some money by levying an export duty.

We have a law for the protection of wild animals, but no law for the protection of cows, the most useful animals in the world. Therefore, I suggest that the committee should be authorized to make suggestions for the protection of cows legally. As regards the slaughter of

cows, I would suggest that the committee which would consist of Europeans and Indians, officials and non-officials, Hindus and Muhammdans, should go into the matter thoroughly. If the question, however, is raised here that this point should not be referred to the committee, then I have no objection, but I beg to submit that even Indian Chiefs like the Gaekwar of Baroda, the Maharaja of Kashmire have passed laws against the slaughter of cows in their States. It may be stated that these two Chiefs are Hindus, but what about the Nizam of Hyderabad. No cows can be slaughtered in his State where it is prohibited by law. Even the Amir of Afghanistan has prohibited the slaughter of cows in his State. It appears that other provinces have already taken a lead in this matter. I find that in the Bombay Legislative Council in the year 1920, a resolution was moved and was accepted by the Government for the appointment of a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to submit a report regarding the protection of cattle. In the United Provinces Council, a similar resolution was moved and the Hon'ble Mr. Chintamani, the Minister, sympathised with the resolution and promised to give it his best consideration. Then in this Council in 1919, our esteemed friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, moved a resolution for the appointment of a committee and I am very glad to find that the Government gave sympathetic assurance though I find nothing has been done as yet. I think that the time has come when we should make an effort to improve the breed of cattle and thus reduce the infant-mortality in Bengal.

Therefore, Sir, I will not detain the Council any longer, but I will submit that this is a very serious and a vital question Apart from the question of slaughter, upon which I do not insist that the committee should make any suggestion, I will submit that a committee should at once be appointed and arrive at a practical suggestion for the consideration of the Council in this respect. I hope and trust that this resolution will be accepted.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** I had the honour to put forward a resolution of the kind last year, but on account of my absence from the Council it lapsed. I thought over the subject once again, and when I saw my friend, Mr. Addy, coming forward with a resolution of this kind, I felt it my duty to support it. Mr. Addy has taken a broad and liberal view of the whole question. He has, however, also suggested a remedy, but he has forgotten to state to the Council that there is an important remedy, viz., the establishment of dairy farms. In my capacity as a public citizen of a neighbouring town, I thought it necessary that if we could succeed to establish dairy farms, they would be of some good and so I started one such on commercial lines following the policy that was adopted in Bombay. In Bombay a dairy farm was established by a few leading men on a capital of two crores of rupees and my information is that its concern is a successful one. To my lot the dairy farm, which I had the honour and pleasure

to start, did not succeed. I had, therefore, the oppotrunity of knowing the views of Government on the subject and I was told that Government had taken it up in right earnest and that there was the suggestion too of a legislation on the subject, but it was confined to Calcutta only. It is necessary, therefore, to ask the Government to consider the subject through a committee as has been suggested by Mr. Addy. As regards the appalling nature of infantile-mortality, I beg to submit that I brought it to the notice of the Minister of Local Self-Government and I got a sympathetic reply to it. I brought forward facts and figures to establish that the infantile-mortality was an appalling one. He was, however, kind enough to supply me with other figures which would show that the mortality was more appalling. I do not know as yet what steps the Hon'ble the Minister has taken on the subject, but I know that he is keen about it and he must have taken steps in order to reduce the mortality which is prevalent in the Province. Mr. Addy has referred to the facts and figures on comparative lines to show the mortality in Great Britain, in Japan, in New Zealand and other places. I am not now very much concerned with the mortality in other countries, but I am concerned with a comparative view of the infantile-mortality with regard to the provinces of India. I can say this emphatically that the infant-mortality is due to the non-supply of pure milk Some investigation is, therefore, necessary for the purpose of satisfying the public that strong efforts have been made by Government in this connection.

Reference has been made to the want of grazing grounds or pasture-lands. If Mr. Addy would have taken a note of the number of grazing grounds, he would have been satisfied that the number of grazing grounds in different parts of this province is thus: Burdwan 5,429, Bankura 72,617, Birbhum 2,94,000, Midnapore 1,48,000, Hooghly 16,359, Howrah 3,688, 24-Parganas 20,592 and so on. The difficulty as to the pasture-grounds is very great. These pasture grounds or grazing grounds have been gradually encroached upon and absorbed by the raiyats and zamindars. Therefore, it is necessary to inquire about the condition of the pasture grounds and Mr. Addy rightly suggests that that should be the scope of the committee's inquiry. I quite agree with his views.

As regards the slaughter of kine, I have one suggestion to make. I can submit to the Council that attempts have been made by both liberal-minded Hindus and Muhammadans on the subject and reference was made by public bodies to the Magistrate of the district where I have the honour to reside, but the difficulty arose on account of no provision being made in the Bengal Municipal Act on the point, nor do we find this provision in the District Board Act or in the village Act. Hence some difficulty was experienced by those who were in charge of the administration of these public bodies and I submit for the consideration of the Council that when the amendment of the Bengal Municipal

Act and the Local Self-Government Act would be taken up, this point may kindly be taken into consideration. But so far as I am concerned, I must look to the feelings of both classes of the community, viz., the Hindus and the Muhammadans and, therefore, the steps that I took in the matter were approved of by those who were interested in it. This sympathy led these two communities to work together harmoniously and we find there has been, so far as I know, less slaughter of kine in the several districts where I have the honour to work. Mr. Addy has asked the Council to inquire about this matter. I do not like to detain the House any longer, as I have not got anything more to say at present. But having studied the subject carefully, having gone through the Agricultural Reports, having worked with my Muhammadan brethren with heart and soul in many places, knowing as I do the feelings, the wants and difficulties of the agricultural community, I whole-heartedly welcome this resolution.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** I beg to oppose the motion of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy for the appointment of a committee as proposed by him. Perhaps it is known to the Council that Mr. Addy is a member of the Calcutta Corporation. There he moved a resolution to stop the slaughter of cows, and he succeeded in getting the same passed, notwithstanding the warning of the Chairman of the Corporation that such a measure is *ultra vires* and against the policy of law. The Council may also remember that the mover gave a notice of a similar resolution prohibiting the slaughter of cows in this very Council, but fortunately this resolution was disallowed by the Government for obvious reasons. I beg to point out that this resolution of the Calcutta Corporation which was fathered by Mr. Addy has created a good deal of mischief, consternation and agitation. It has also given rise to a good deal of tension of feelings, and friction between Hindu and Mussalmans where none existed before. It has also created precedents for other local bodies to follow. As for example, the Burdwan Municipality has passed a similar resolution under similar circumstances.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** May I rise to a point of order? What motion are we discussing? The motion of Mr. Addy in this Council or his motion in the Calcutta Corporation?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The member is referring to the motion referred to by Mr. Addy. I think he is relevant.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** Burdwan Municipality has passed a similar resolution under similar circumstances——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The present resolution is that a committee be appointed to consider what steps should be taken for increasing the supply of pure cow's milk, and for developing agriculture in

Bengal. So I do not think you ought to dilate much upon the resolution in the Calcutta Corporation or the attitude of the Burdwan Municipality with reference to the slaughter of cows.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** What I mean to say, Sir, is that the substance of the resolutions is the same.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Mr Addy referred but slightly to the slaughter of cows in his speech, so you need not dwell on that aspect of the question.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** On the contrary I advocated the slaughter of cows.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** I have already told the Council that Babu Amulya Dhone Addy gave notice of moving a resolution prohibiting slaughter of cows in this Council, but his objects were frustrated as the Government disallowed the resolution for reasons which I have submitted before this Council. He has not lost courage, and with the same object in view he has brought this resolution under the guise of a proposal for the appointment of a committee for taking steps to increase cow's milk-supply and agriculture. Though he is clever enough to conceal his bitter pill with gold coating, the coating is transparent enough to warn any sensible man I see in this resolution that he has indirectly proposed to stop slaughter of cows as he means to assert that this measure will increase the supply of cow's milk and improve agriculture. The mover possibly thinks that if he can induce the Council to get a committee appointed, then there will be a majority of Hindus in the committee and he will get it decided by the committee, that prevention of the slaughter of cows is necessary in order to increase the supply of cow's milk and agriculture.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** May I again rise to a point of order? Is the member talking on the resolution before the House? What he is saying about the majority of Hindus in the committee does not at all appear in it

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** That the intention of the mover is to prevent slaughter of cows is evident from the wording of his resolution as also from his previous conduct.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Is the member in order in criticising my conduct, Sir?

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** I simply mean his action.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** How can you make an attack upon the previous conduct of a member. You should withdraw that objectionable expression.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** I withdraw it if it is taken objection to.

I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the wording "he wishes to increase the supply of pure cow's milk" and not milk. He will not be satisfied if the supply of buffalo's milk or any other milk is increased. His coating is too transparent to deceive anybody. Therefore, it is quite clear that the object of Mr. Addy in moving the resolution is to prevent slaughter of cows. This very same resolution was disallowed by His Excellency the Governor and this resolution would have met the same fate, but for the fact that the mover has couched it in a different language. This resolution is based upon sentiment and not upon reason. If as a Baishnab, his sentiment leads him to move the resolution as a public man he should have considered that the non-Baishnabs have also their sentiment. The feelings of the Muhammadans and others will be hurt Is the sentiment of 60 or 70 per cent. of the population nothing and no consideration should be shown to them? Is the sentiment of a few handful of persons who are in power everything? Slaughter of cows has absolutely no connection with the improvement of agriculture and supply of milk. Sir, Denmark, Ireland, Holland, United States, Australia, New Zealand are the greatest milk-producing as well as agricultural countries, yet they slaughter cows and are notorious (*sic*) beef-eaters. The thing is that every reasonable man, be he a beef-eater or not, is guided by his sense of economy. No man kills a valuable cow for food. Well, the deterioration of cattle is due to want of pasture lands and fodder. The pasture lands of Bengal have been gradually encroached upon, and cultivated and the cows are getting emaciated by thousands, and when they become useless they are slaughtered. Brahmins, Baidayas Kaisthas and Banias sell such useless cows to cattle dealers who also sometimes do the business of butchers. I have seen this with my own eyes.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I must protest against his statement that Brahmins sell their cows for slaughter. Can he prove it?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble member should not show his temper.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Is the matter at all relevant, Sir?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** When he says that he has been with his own eyes Brahmins selling cows to butchers, I canot object to that statement.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** Therefore, want of fodder and pasture has led to the deterioration of milk-supply. Who are responsible for this disappearance of pasture? I say deliberately it is the landlords, for they have let out the pasture land. It is they, therefore, who are the root cause for the deterioration of milk-supply and killing of a large number of cattle. Committees are useless. What will the committees do? They cannot convert the arable lands into pasture lands. They cannot prevent the sale of emaciated and useless cows to the butchers. Well, if you like to improve the milk-supply, approach your zamindars for the purpose of creating pasture lands. It is no good appointing committees.

With these few observations, I beg to oppose the resolution.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** I rise to oppose the resolution of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy. It is a pity that this resolution has brought about so much heat in the Council. The very arguments which Mr. Addy has advanced would rather go to show that the resolution, if carried into effect, would practically yield no good to the country. We are quite prepared to pass a resolution which would really help in the increase of milk-supply in the province, but at the same time we must consider as to whether by passing a particular resolution we do more good or cause greater mischief to the interests of the country as a whole. Mr. Addy has pointed out by facts and figures that the supply of pure milk is gradually decreasing, that the number of cattle also is decreasing, and that the price of milk is gradually increasing. Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that his data are correct, and that his premises are based on facts and figures—although I have great doubt as to the correctness of the statement that the number of cattle is decreasing. However, let me assume, for the sake of argument, that it is so. But still what are the remedies? Mr. Addy has suggested some, and from the agricultural policy of the present Government, I am quite confident that everything which the mover has suggested has already been given effect to by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge. The only thing that the Hon'ble the Minister has not been able to do is the one remedy suggested by him, namely, the prevention of slaughter of cows. One of his arguments was that if we want the increase of milk-supply, we must increase the number of stud-bulls. I think the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture will be quite glad to increase their numbers to the extent to which the mover wants, provided Mr. Addy would vote for the necessary money, so that from what I have been able to gather from the policy of the Hon'ble the Minister for Agriculture, I know that he has a sympathy for a genuine agitation which would really result in the increase of milk-supply.

As regards the question of pasture grounds, if I remember aright, there was a resolution brought forward in this Council for increasing the pasture grounds. The Hon'ble the Minister said: "I have no objection; give me the money to acquire land, and I hope there will be no

difficulty." I may take it that in the next budget grant, the members of this Council would vote sufficient money for the acquisition of land which may be used as pasture ground. I also appeal to Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray to carve out a portion of his zamindari so that it may be used as pasture ground for the cattle of his tenants, and the question would be easily solved. Government, I think, would be quite prepared to accept a suggestion of this nature, provided sufficient funds were forthcoming and provided also the landed aristocracy of the province, who profess to take so much interest in the matter, took the trouble of giving away some portion at least of the land in their vast zamindari, so that the poor cattle may have some sort of fodder.

Then, as regards the Veterinary Department or veterinary help, it is the well-known policy of the present Government to help or rather to give effect to this policy as much as possible. It is a transferred subject: vote money, bring forward resolutions, carry them and then the Hon'ble the Minister would not object to give effect to them.

Then, as regards the establishment of dairy farms, I think Government have already taken up this matter. In fact the Hon'ble the Minister in charge is trying his level best to carry the scheme into effect. Therefore, all the suggestions of the mover have been already given effect to by the Hon'ble the Minister excepting, as I have already said, the one that the slaughter of cows should be stopped or prevented as much as possible. I would ask Mr. Addy to consider this question, and I would appeal to him also to consider whether this resolution would really do any good to the country as a whole or whether it might be interpreted to mean that there was an indirect attempt to prevent the slaughter of cows. Even if that interpretation is put upon the resolution, suspicion may arise in the minds of Muhammadans, and I think this is not the fit time when such question should be agitated upon in the Council in order to create a split between the two communities. Our friends outside the Council are trying to solve this question without legislation. It is a question of give and take. Please do not try to create a split on religious grounds. Therefore, what I ask the mover to consider is this: he has suggested certain remedies; they have all been given effect to by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture; the only thing that remains is the prevention of the slaughter of cows. That is a very debatable question, and I do not know how far this Council has any jurisdiction over the matter, because, if I remember aright there is a section in the Government of India Act wherein it has been laid down that His Excellency has got the power to reject any motion which may in any way interfere with the religious feelings of any particular community. It may not be the intention of Mr. Addy to suggest such things to the committee, but I heard him say, if I remember aright, that this question should also be considered by the committee which he proposes. Therefore, it is quite clear that his intention is that this

question also should be considered by the committee, but whether they would support it or not is a different matter. The very fact that the matter is going to be agitated upon before a committee or an attempt will be made to prevent the slaughter of cows—this very idea—would ruin the cause of the Hindu-Moslem unity. I therefore say that instead of helping and making the Reforms a success, they would ruin them.

**Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT:** I am very sorry to hear the speeches of the last two speakers on the subject. They made a mess of the whole thing; probably they did not grasp the thing at all. I am much pleased to see my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, move this resolution before the House. On the last occasion—it was in 1921, if I remember aright—I moved a resolution to the same effect for the improvement of cattle, and I am very pleased to say that the House accepted my resolution; but it is a great pity to note that up to now nothing has been done to give effect to it. May I ask, Sir, is it of no importance? I do not want to take up much time of the Council My friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, has already made a full statement of the facts before the House As regards the desirability of this resolution, I do not think there is any doubt; for scarcity of pure milk is felt everywhere, and I sincerely hope that Government will take earnest steps to increase the supply of pure milk which is essential to the needs of human beings, especially Indians I think it will not be out of place to mention here that all the available pasture land is taken over by Government, private zamindars, *jotedars* and private concerns for some other purposes. We should not tolerate these any more. If you want to find out a means to ensure the supply of pure milk and to give effect to the resolution of Mr. Addy, I think it is very desirable that a committee should be appointed and it should take particular care to find out suitable grazing grounds for the cattle, which is one of the principal points in connection with this resolution.

I strongly support the resolution of my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** From the point of view of the Agricultural Department the problem of increasing the supply of pure cow's milk in Bengal depends chiefly on improving the breed of cattle and thereby increasing the milk-yielding capacity of the cows. Owing partly to climatic and partly to economic causes, the condition of the cattle in Bengal is admittedly unsatisfactory and the milk-yielding capacity of the Bengal cows is low.

The Rangpur cattle farm was started in 1913 and the Government is there attempting to improve the breed of cattle in two different ways, namely, by a process of selection from amongst the indigenous cattle,

and by cross-breeding. The herd is divided into two sections. In one section, selected local cows breed from a Hissar bull, and in the other from the best local bulls available. The milk yield of each cow is carefully recorded and those which give a low yield are eliminated from the herd. Several generations will have to be bred before definite results can be obtained, but at present the half-bred Hissar herd show distinct signs of superiority over the local breed. Meanwhile, bulls of the best available type are being sent to all the agricultural farms. At the same time the Agricultural Department is studying the problem of fodder crops. If a good breed of cattle is to be produced and the milking capacity of the cows maintained at the highest level, an improvement in the present method of feeding cattle is essential; and in a country like Bengal, where all suitable land is brought under cultivation, the introduction of fodder crops is the only method of effecting this. The Agricultural Department are thus giving their attention to the two fundamental problems on which the increase of the milk-supply depends, and I do not think that a committee of the kind proposed could give them any practical assistance. As regards the Co-operative Department, I need only mention the Milk Union which has been started in the Barasat subdivision. If this becomes an established success, every effort will be made to extend this form of co-operative activity.

As regards the second question, which the mover proposes that the committee should consider, namely, what steps should be taken for developing agriculture in Bengal, I doubt if he has realised the magnitude of the subject. The committee would have to examine and consider every branch of the activities of the Agricultural Department. In doing so they would have to rely mainly on the advice of the officers of the department. This advice is already available to Government and I think I may say that the Director of Agriculture is well aware of the lines on which he should proceed with a view to the development of agriculture. In opposing a committee of the kind suggested, I do not wish to disparage the value of non-official advice. On the contrary, I am fully conscious of the advantages of having our experts' schemes scrutinized by practical, commonsense men, with personal knowledge of the cultivators' needs. But I would remind the Council that the Director of Agriculture already has the advice and assistance of a body largely composed of non-officials—I mean the Bengal Board of Agriculture. Formerly, the Board consisted of officials only, but I have recently reorganised it and appointed to it a large non-official element. Then there is the Standing Committee of this Council for the department of Agriculture. All the new schemes of the Agricultural Department are examined by that committee on which there are 4 elected members of this Council. If a committee of the kind proposed in the resolution is also appointed, it will to some extent usurp the functions of these two bodies, its advice may even be in conflict with theirs and certainly it will lead to delay and waste of time. A multiplicity of

advisers is always a danger. Further, I must remind the Council of another drawback to a multiplicity of committees. Our officers have their duties to perform and constant attendance at meetings of committees is a serious encroachment on the time available for these duties. In the present case, I am afraid that the practical results of the proposed committee's labours would not be commensurate with the time and energy which would be spent on them. I can assure the Council that the Director of Agriculture recognises the value of the advice which he receives from the Board of Agriculture and the Standing Committee and I am sure that if he is given sufficient staff and sufficient money, he will with their assistance, do all that is possible for the development of agriculture in Bengal. I therefore hope that the Council will agree with me in thinking that a special committee of the kind proposed in the resolution will serve no useful purpose, and that it should be left to the Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Standing Committee, to advise the Director of Agriculture and myself on the policy of the Department.

I may point out that the mover himself has given no adequate reason for appointing yet another committee. He has dealt generally with the cattle question, but has not indicated how a committee can help us. He has made a number of suggestions, not one of which is so novel or far-reaching that it is necessary to place it before a committee. On these grounds, I oppose this resolution.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I am sorry that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge has opposed my resolution, and I am more sorry for the attitude which has been taken by some of my Muhammadan colleagues in this Council. I have moved my resolution not with a view to stop the slaughter of cows, but with a view to increase the supply of milk and to encourage the development of agriculture in Bengal. The suggestions which I make for the consideration of the committee are to increase the area of pasture grounds, the number of stud-bulls, the number of veterinary dispensaries in the mufassal, to prohibit the export of cattle from India to foreign countries and restrict the export of fodder.

A member has said that at a meeting of the Calcutta Corporation I raised my voice against the slaughter of cows. On the contrary, as I have already said, I have not the slightest objection to the slaughter of useless cows and bullocks. One of my friends has stated that I have not mentioned buffalo's milk. The reason is that I have raised this question with a view to reduce infant-mortality. It is the cow's milk that is used by infants and not buffalo's milk; and with that object I have inserted the words "pure cow's milk" in my resolution.

My Muhammadan friend has stated that it will affect the sentiments of my Muhammadan brethren. If it had been so, I would have withdrawn my resolution. I find that the rate of infant-mortality amongst

the Muhammadans is much higher than that amongst the Hindus, and that the number of Muhammadans interested directly or indirectly in agriculture is much higher than that of Hindus. It is with a view to improving the lot of my Muhammadan brethren that I have moved this resolution. They are really killing themselves. The rate of infant-mortality amongst them, as I have already said, is much higher than it is amongst the Hindus. Even in regard to the supply of milk it will serve their purpose as it will also increase the supply of beef; and unless we increase the number of cattle how can we increase the supply of beef?

Then, it has been said that with a view to increase the area of pasture lands the zamindars should be appealed to. What I beg to submit is that it is the duty of the local authorities, and of the Government to do so. But as there is no provision in the Local Self-Government Act, I have suggested that we should refer the whole question to a committee for consideration. It has been stated that Government have taken the necessary steps. But may I ask what steps have been taken? I have already drawn attention to the fact that the number of stud-bulls is only 132 in the whole of Bengal, and that is the reason why I have submitted that Government have taken no steps, or the steps they ought to have taken. It is, therefore, necessary to appoint a committee consisting of experts of Government, of some Muhammadans, of some Europeans, to go through the question and make practical suggestions for the consideration of Government as well as of this Council. Have any steps been taken by Government to prevent the export of cattle from Bengal to foreign countries? No; nothing of the kind. Government say that they have full sympathy with this object. What have Government done? They have done nothing. Government are indeed responsible for the heavy infant-mortality. I may say that I have not the slightest objection to having a Muhammadan majority on the committee, because it appears to me that they are more interested in the matter than their Hindu brethren. These are the reasons why we should appoint a committee with a view to increase the supply of pure cow's milk.

The motion was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.

Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

**NOES.**

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Bancrjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Makramali, Munshi.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 31 and the Noes 36, the motion was lost.

## Deputy-President's speech.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The Council will remember that the other day a motion by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to amend the Standing Orders was referred to a Select Committee under section 100. I have decided that it would be convenient if this committee was formed in November before the November Session and steps will be taken accordingly.

I am desired by the Legislative Department to say that members are not returning their corrected speeches with their usual promptness.

The Legislative Department will not be able to wait in this matter, as it will delay the issue of the proceedings. I hope members will kindly bear this fact in mind.

I would remind members of the informal matter regarding the Retrenchment Committee. I hope it will be convenient for the non-official members to meet here on Thursday at 2 o'clock. We can then discuss some of the matters.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Wednesday, the 30th August 1922, at 3 P.M. at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 93 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Copyists and typists employed in mufassal courts.

***LXIX. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether blotting paper, ink, thread, paper, ribbon and carbon papers are supplied to the typists and copyists of the civil, criminal and revenue courts of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the names of the districts and offices wherein these or any of them are supplied?

(*d*) Are the typists and copyists regarded as Government servants or officers in the employ of Government?

(*e*) Is it a fact that no part of the expedition fees and court-fees for certified copies is paid to the copyists and typists?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reason for this?

(*g*) Is it a fact that copyists are paid half of the copying charges levied for copies of maps and two-thirds of the said charges levied for copies of other papers?

(*h*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for such differentiation?

(*i*) What steps, if any, are being taken to improve the prospects and status of the copyists and typists in civil, criminal and revenue courts?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) Typists are not supplied with typewriting accessories. The practice of supplying copyists and typists with blotting paper, ink, thread and paper is not uniform in all districts.

(*b*) As typists use their own machines and are paid by piece-work they have to provide their own ribbon and carbon paper.

(*c*) The information is not available but inquiries will be made if required.

(*d*) They are considered as ministerial officers not belonging to the permanent establishment.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No extra work is put on the copyists, but the preparation of ordinary copies is delayed in favour of copies required with expedition fee.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The price of tracing cloth which is supplied by Government for copying maps is taken into consideration.

(*i*) The member is referred to the answers given to Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq and Maulvi Shah Abdur Rauf at this Session of the Council.

### Pabna water works.

***LXX. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of the Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have made a grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Pabna Municipality in the supplementary budget to make experiments regarding the Pabna water works scheme on the boring system?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the erosion of the river Padma has already commenced all along the village of Ramchandrapur situated in Ward No. IV of the Pabna Municipality and that a portion of the *pucca* mosque has gone down in the river within the last few days?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of postponing for the present the present boring experiment at Pabna until the fate of the town is assured from erosion and of spending the amount sanctioned for the boring experiment towards saving the attacked portion of the municipal area of Ward No. IV?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether in sanctioning the money for the boring experiment at Pabna they considered the question of the probable fate of that town by erosion?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Minister after consulting the Public Works Department is of opinion that it is not desirable to postpone the work on these grounds.

(*d*) The point was not specially considered.

**Whipping of political prisoners in Barisal Jail.**

***LXXI. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether a number of political prisoners have been recently (i.e. after the 20th July) whipped in the Barisal Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving—

(*i*) the names of the prisoners whipped;

(*ii*) their respective ages and occupations;

(*iii*) the offences for which they have been whipped; and

(*iv*) the number of stripes given to each?

(*c*) Was any previous sanction obtained from the Government in each specific instance?

(*d*) What was the weight of each of the aforesaid prisoners on the day of their admission into the jail and on the day on which whipping was inflicted?

(*e*) Is it a fact that as a result of the whipping some of the prisoners had to be removed to the hospital?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (JAILS) (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Five prisoners were whipped about a month ago in the Barisal Jail. They had been convicted of ordinary offences, under the Indian Penal Code, committed in connection with the non-co-operation movement; three of them had been convicted of theft. None of them were special class prisoners.

(*b*) It is not desirable to disclose the names of the prisoners; and their occupations are not known to Government. Their respective ages were 18, 22, 20, 20 and 19 and they were whipped for persistent and contumacious refusal to work after due warning that if they still refused to work they would be whipped. They were amongst the most insubordinate of the prisoners in the Barisal Jail and their behaviour was having a most adverse effect on the jail discipline and, if not checked, it might have led to an outbreak in the jail. They were given 15 stripes each, the first on the 25th and the rest on the 27th July, 1922.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) On admission their respective weights were 103, 98, 88, 112 and 112 lbs.; on the 16th July, the date of the last weighment before the whipping, their respective weights were 115, 102, 89, 112 and 116 lbs.

(*e*) No. They were taken to hospital for observation and sent to their wards in the afternoon.

### Alleged treatment of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik by the Superintendent of Alipore Jail.

*LXXII. **Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to clause (*b*) of unstarred question No. 133 put by Babu Debendra Lal Khan on the 10th July, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence which passed between the Hon'ble the Member and Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik on the subject of his treatment by the Superintendent of the Alipore Central Jail?

(*b*) With reference to the reply to question supplementary to the said question No. 133, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that Mr. Mallik does not accept the version that "the Superintendent gave Mr. Mallik permission to see the prisoners whom he wanted to visit but Mr. Mallik refused"?

(*c*) With reference to the reply to a question supplementary to the said question No. 133, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state by whom "the Superintendent was misled"?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The member is referred to the papers laid on the table in accordance with the promise made by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim in reply to the supplementary question on the 10th July, 1922, by Dr. A. Suhrawardy.

(*b*) and (*c*) The facts have been stated to the Council and the correspondence laid on the table. Government are not prepared to continue the discussion.

## Unstarred Questions

### (answers to which were laid on the table).

### Cost of settlement buildings, etc., in Jessore.

176. **Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the actual sum spent for erecting the settlement office buildings, the press shed and the Settlement Officer's quarters in the Jessore Settlement, separately?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to say how these buildings will be disposed of at the close of the settlement operations of the district?

(*c*) What amount, if any, has been sanctioned by the Government for building purposes for the Khulna Settlement?

(*d*) Is there any objection to the utilization of the Jessore buildings for the Khulna Settlement as has been done in the cases of Tippera-Noakhali, Pabna-Bogra, and Nada-Murshidabad Settlements?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):**

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| (*a*) Vernacular office | ... 35,000 |
| Record room | ... 32,929 |
| Press shed | ... 25,092 |
| Settlement Officer's quarters | 43,520 |
| Peons' quarters | ... 10,220 |
| Total | ... 1,46,761 |

(*b*) The record room will be used for the storage of the settlement records for which there is no room in the Collectorate Record Room.

The other offices will be used for 4 or 5 years by the Khulna Settlement.

The disposal of the Settlement Officer's residence is under consideration.

(*c*) Rupees 85,397.

(*d*) It has been arranged that on the completion of the Khulna Settlement the Irrigation Department will take over the Settlement Officer's house for the Executive Engineer of the Khulna Division. The removal of this officer's headquarters to Khulna has been postponed in order to avoid the expense of constructing two houses. The vernacular office at Khulna will, on the completion of the settlement, be used as a record room, the accommodation in the Collectorate being quite inadequate as a permanent arrangement. In effect, therefore, it is intended to utilise the Jessore buildings as suggested in the question.

### Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta Police.

**177. Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM:** (*a*) With reference to the answers given on the 3rd July to my unstarred question No. 42, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether a first class Army certificate is recognised by Government as an educational qualification?

(*b*) For what special reasons were Messrs. Cook and Jackson excused from passing a Police training examination?

(*c*) Is it not correct that Messrs. Cook, Wooley and Jackson, now Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta Police, were second grade sub-inspectors on 21st May, 1914, 1st March, 1915, and 1st August, 1917, respectively, and that there were several Muhammadan officers senior to them, including sub-inspectors Mojibur Rahman and Faiz Husain, B.A., the former since pensioned and the latter resigned?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Mr. Cook officiated as a Deputy Commissioner of Police for about a year during which period he drew a conveyance allowance of Rs. 150 per mensem, for maintaining a four-seated motor car? If so, what was the number of his motor car?

(*e*) Is it not correct that Mr. Jackson stands twelfth in the list of Inspectors and that he has therefore superseded 11 officers of whom three are graduates?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what are the qualifications that are required for the post of an Assistant Commissioner of the Calcutta Police?

(*g*) Is there no Muhammadan officer in the Calcutta Police with such qualifications?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Yes, so far as the recruitment of Europeans to the Calcutta Police is concerned.

(*b*) Mr. Cook was excused as it was impossible to spare him for deputation to a Training Course, and as at the time of his appointment and promotion such an examination was not necessary for the duties he was required to undertake.

Mr. Jackson passed the usual departmental examination for confirmation as a Sergeant, and rose through the non-investigating ranks.

(*c*) This is correct.

(*d*) The number of the motor car maintained by Mr. Cook for the greater part of this period was 500.

(*e*) This is correct. Mr. Jackson has been officiating as an Assistant Commissioner and has not been confirmed as yet.

(*f*) It is impossible to enumerate all the qualifications required, as these differ to some extent with the nature of the particular Assistant Commissioner's post. Speaking generally, it may be stated that the qualifications required are ability to command and control men and to maintain discipline, fearlessness, integrity, resourcefulness, initiative, sound common sense and a keen sense of duty.

(*g*) There are no senior Muhammadan officers in the Calcutta Police with all such qualifications.

### Reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service.

**178. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the reorganization of the Educational Service below the Bengal Educational Service, sanctioned under Government Resolution No. 464 Edn., dated the 3rd March, 1922, has adversely affected the majority of the teachers who formerly belonged to the Subordinate Educational Service?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the maximum pay of the Subordinate Educational Service was Rs. 250, whereas the present maximum pay of an assistant master under the new time-scale cannot be more than Rs. 200?

(*c*) If so, what steps are the Government proposing to take in this matter?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a new recruit will be allowed to reach Rs. 200 within 25 years of service whereas more than 300 out of 505 English teachers will not be in a position to reach the maximum of Rs. 200 within that period under the new time-scale of pay, if so, why?

(*e*) What steps, if any, are the Government proposing taking in the matter referred to in (*d*)?

(*f*) Is it a fact that new recruits will be regarded eligible for promotion to the selection grade of Rs. 150—10—250 after 15 years' service whereas the teachers who have been in the Subordinate Educational Service for 13 years will not be eligible for promotion to the selection grade till they have served for at least 20 years? If so, why? What steps, if any, are the Government taking in regard to this?

(*g*) Is it a fact that under the new time-scale 23 per cent. of the inspecting officers can go to the selection grade, whereas only 11 per cent. of the English teachers are allowed to enter that grade?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of revising the percentage of the English teachers in the selection grade from 11 to 23?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter):** (*a*) This is not the case. Reference is invited to paragraph 2 of the Report of the Reorganisation Committee. The immediate increase of 33⅓ per cent. to the salary of each teacher with retrospective effect from September, 1921, the introduction of a time-scale and a total increase of about 12½ lakhs of rupees annually in the salary bill of the service as a whole do not point to the conclusion that the majority were adversely affected.

(*b*) The maximum pay of the Subordinate Educational Service was Rs. 250, but this maximum was not reached by many. The maximum pay of an assistant master who is not at any time selected to be an assistant head master is in the new scale Rs. 200. But an assistant master may be selected for a post as assistant head master, of which the maximum is Rs. 250, and afterwards for a post as head master in the Bengal Educational Service.

(*c*) No action is contemplated.

(*d*) The terms of the new scale for English teachers in high schools have been determined in reference to—(*1*) the nature of their duties, and (*2*) the qualifications required. The majority of the existing officers have not the requisite qualifications, most of them being matriculates or undergraduates.

They originally accepted posts in the Lower Subordinate Educational Service or on small rates of pay outside the grades, and were promoted to the Subordinate Educational Service in September, 1919, in connection with the scheme for the improvement of secondary education. Consequently, despite their longer service, they were either in class VIII (Rs. 50) or VII (Rs. 60) of the Subordinate Educational Service at the time when the new scales were introduced, and their pay in the new scale was fixed in reference to the pay previously drawn. They have thus got on to a scale of pay to which their low qualifications do not entitle them, but in consequence of the small pay previously drawn by them have been placed low in that scale.

(*e*) In view of the fact that these teachers have lower qualifications than are required and will be accepted in future, and that their pay was increased in 1919 and 1922, Government do not consider it necessary to take any steps in the matter.

(*f*) There is no selection grade for teachers other than the grade of assistant head masters (Rs. 150—10—250) for which academic qualifications, seniority, ability and experience in teaching will be taken into consideration. The reference to 15, 13 and 20 years of service is not understood.

(*g*) As explained in (*f*) there is no selection grade for English teachers. Nor is there a selection grade for Sub-Inspectors of Schools, though Sub-Inspectors have the prospect of promotion to the post of Subdivisional Inspector. There are 268 Sub-Inspectors' posts and 61 Subdivisional Inspectors' posts.

(*h*) Does not arise.

## Expenditure of the Calcutta University.

**179. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what part or percentage of the total expenditure of the Calcutta University is met respectively from—

(*i*) the students' fees;

(*ii*) the proceeds of private benefactions and endowments; and

(*iii*) Government grants?

(*b*) Are the Government in a position to lay on the table any comparative statement showing the percentage of University expenditure contributed from the above three sources—

(*i*) in the principal European countries;

(*ii*) in Canada, Australia and New Zealand; and

(*iii*) in the United States of America?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) A statement supplied by the Calcutta University is laid on the table.

(*b*) No. Government have no information.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 179.*

**1920-21.**

| | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| Total expenditure of the Calcutta University | ... | 21,49,255 |
| This amount was met from— | | |
| (1) Fees paid by candidates | ... | 13,17,204 |
| (2) Tuition fees paid by students | ... | 2,90,988 |
| (3) Income derived from other sources | ... | 2,00,844 |
| (4) Endowments | ... | 1,77,030 |
| (5) Government grant | ... | 1,63,189 |
| Total | ... | 21,49,255 |

## Whipping in Barisal Jail.

**180. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some political prisoners went on hunger strike and abstained from voluntarily taking any food in the Barisal Jail?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state their names and for what alleged reasons and for how many days each of them did not voluntarily take any food?

(*c*) Is Mr. Satindra Nath Sen one of those persons?

(*d*) If so, was he or is he still on hunger strike?

(*e*) Has any inquiry been made into the alleged reasons for hunger strike? If so, with what result?

(*f*) Is it a fact that some political prisoners have been flogged in the Barisal Jail?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) their names;

(*ii*) for what particular offences they were undergoing imprisonment;

(*iii*) how many stripes were given to each of them and *on what dates;* and

(*iv*) the particular offences or breaches of jail rules and discipline for which they were so flogged?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Three prisoners Satindra Nath Sen, Mohendra Nath Rai and Dhirendra Nath Sen Gupta convicted of offences in connection with the non-co-operation movement went on hunger strike in the Barisal Jail as a protest against the disciplinary action taken against other prisoners on account of their misbehaviour. Satindra Nath Sen was on hunger strike for 13 days, from the 10th June. On the fourteenth day he was fed by means of a nasal tube. After that he voluntarily swallowed what was put in his mouth and the strike was merely nominal till the 6th August when it stopped. The other two were on hunger strike for 19 days each.

(*e*) Yes. Inquiries were held by the Superintendent, non-official visitors and others. The Superintendent's action was justified.

(*f*) and (*g*) The member is referred to the answers given to a starred question on the subject put by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray at this meeting.

## Reorganization of Subordinate Educational Services.

**181. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Wordsworth Committee recommended a scheme of reorganization at an estimated cost of about Rs. 8½ lakhs for six months?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the Hon'ble the Minister considered Rs. 7½ lakhs necessary for the reorganization and accordingly asked for the amount which was sanctioned by the Legislative Council?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the sum actually spent for giving effect to the scheme of reorganization?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to place on the table a copy of the scheme drawn up by him before asking for the grant of Rs. 7½ lakhs?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not utilizing the entire amount (Rs. 7½ lakhs) granted by the Council on his own motion?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the nominal rolls of officers in the Subordinate Educational Service based on the length of service were prepared and submitted for scrutiny by the Finance Department?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the amount required for giving effect to the scheme as indicated in (*f*) and that required under the recent reorganization are almost the same?

(*h*) Is it a fact that in the reorganization of the pay and prospects of other officers in the services of the Government, length of past services of the officers has been taken into account?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons which led him to deviate from the policy accepted by other Departments under the Government by giving the Subordinate Educational Service officers 33 per cent. of their present pay *plus* one year's increment in the time-scale?

(*j*) Is it a fact that there has been a saving of a total of about Rs. 3½ lakhs in 9 years and 8 months ending on the 31st August, 1921, on account of the reduction of the actuarial scale of the gradings of the Subordinate Educational Service?

(*k*) Is it a fact that all officers who entered the lowest grade of the Subordinate Educational Service before 1912, have suffered due to the fall of the average value of the service?

(*l*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what measures, if any, have been taken to compensate the loss sustained by the officers concerned due to the fall of the average value of the service?

(*m*) Is it a fact that the money granted for the reorganization has not made good even a part of the loss occasioned by the causes mentioned in (*k*) and (*l*) to the officers entering the lowest grade of the Subordinate Educational Service before 1912?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Yes; but the Committee's estimate was not an estimate of the immediate actual additional cost but of the average ultimate additional cost of giving effect to its recommendations in respect of the various branches of the educational services below the Bengal Educational Service.

(*b*) A provisional scheme was framed in May, 1921, involving an average ultimate additional expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs a year. A sum of Rs. 3,50,000 only was provided in the Education Budget for 1921-22 for the reorganization of the educational services below the Bengal Educational Service. Owing to the amount having proved inadequate to meet the increased cost for six months a supplementary grant was sanctioned by the Legislative Council in its July session, 1921. The estimate of Rs. 7,50,000 referred to was drawn up on the basis of average ultimate cost of the proposed time-scale pay, and the actual cost was not then worked out.

(*c*) Only two branches of the Subordinate Educational Services were reorganized last year. The actual extra cost for six months from September, 1921, to February, 1922, amounted to about Rs. 3,50,000, the average ultimate increased cost being about Rs. 12,40,000 per annum.

(*d*) Government are unable to meet the wishes of the member, intermediate discussions of a scheme being necessarily confidential.

(*e*) As stated in answer to (*b*) the immediate actual cost was much less than the ultimate average cost on the basis of which Rs. 7½ lakhs was demanded.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) In view of the answer to (*f*) the question does not arise.

(*h*) It is understood that the principle referred to has been adopted in dealing with other services as far as it has been practicable to do so. None of the other services were so heterogeneous in character (there being 13 main groups besides a number of distinct subsidiary appointments) and in most cases not so numerous and so the analogy does not apply.

(*i*) The reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service was considered on its own merits. The service was so heterogeneous and consisted of such a large number of appointments that the scrutiny of the roll of each officer and the particular appointments held by him by the department would have involved such long delay that the reorganization would have been postponed for a long time. In the interest of the service as a whole the line indicated in the question was adopted.

(*j*) There has been no such saving. The expenditure for sanctioned establishments is provided in the budget on the basis of actual requirements, viz., actual pay of the officers, etc.

(*k*) The promotion of such officers was retarded to a certain extent, but they were partly compensated by accelerated promotions in 1919 when the scheme for the improvement of secondary education was given effect to.

(*l*) It is not possible for Government to undo all at once a state of things created by a combination of circumstances extending over a number of years.

(*m*) It is not a fact.

### Reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service.

**182. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the rules empowering him to abolish with effect from 1st September, 1921, the majority of the appointments in the Subordinate Educational Service which were created in 1897 and sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the service conditions existing at the time of the creation of the Subordinate Educational Service in 1897 have been totally altered in the case of the vast majority of the officers without their consent during the recent reorganization?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not offering alternative schemes in the form of improved graded service, as in Bihar and Orissa, to those whose prospects have been adversely affected by the reorganization?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Public Works Department have sanctioned two scales of pay one for the old offices and the other for the new recruits?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the changes brought about by the recent reorganization were not published for general information previous to their being given effect to?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reasons why it was considered necessary to reorganise the Subordinate Educational Service; and

(*ii*) whether these reasons are in existence still?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The local Government had power under article 27(*2*) of the Devolution Rules to sanction the reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service (orders regarding which were issued in Resolution No. 464 Edn., dated the 3rd March, 1922) without reference to higher authority. Under section 19A of the Government of India Act and the rules framed thereunder (copy laid on the table), the local Government in the Ministry of Education can, without any sanction of the Secretary of State, abolish or create posts.

(*b*) The conditions as to salary have been improved under the scheme of reorganization. It is not usual in such cases to obtain the consent of officers who had repeatedly pressed for improved pay.

(*c*) This Government has no information about the scheme sanctioned by the Government of Bihar and Orissa. The substitution of a time-scale service for a graded service was strongly recommended by the Reorganization Committee and formed the basis of the proposals on which Government took action. Reference is invited to paragraph 6 of the Committee's report.

(*d*) Yes. The Public Works Department introduced an incremental scale of pay for the new Subordinate Engineering Service on Rs. 60—5—125—10—225—250 per mensem and a different lower scale of pay on Rs. 50—5/2—100 per mensem for those members of the old Lower Subordinate Service who were not selected for appointment to the new Subordinate Engineering Service.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) (*i*) The reorganization was effected because the officers of that service had repeatedly asked for improved pay and prospects.

(*ii*) No, in the case of teaching and inspecting officers; yes, in the case of officers classed as ministerial and miscellaneous.

*Rule referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 182.*

The following rule has been made by the Secretary of State for India in Council under section 19A of the Government of India Act:—

The powers of superintendence, direction, and control vested in the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State in Council under the Act or otherwise shall, in relation to transferred subjects, be exercised only for the following purposes, namely:—

(1) to safeguard the administration of central subjects;

(2) to decide questions arising between two provinces, in cases where the provinces concerned fail to arrive at an agreement;

(3) to safeguard Imperial interests;

(4) to determine the position of the Government of India in respect of questions arising between India and other parts of the British Empire; and

(5) to safeguard the due exercise and performance of any powers and duties possessed by or imposed on the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State in Council, under or in connection with or for the purposes of the following provisions of the Act, namely, section 29A, section 30(*1A*), part VIIA or of any rules made by or with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council.

**Reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service.**

**183. Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the main recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee are as follows:—

(*i*) As a general rule the benefit of the proposed timescales of pay may be granted to officers according to their years of service in the appointments concerned; and

(*ii*) Twenty per cent. of the officers in each group should go from the ordinary grade to the selection grade?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state why the recommendations mentioned above have not been followed in the recent organization of the Subordiuate Educational Service?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for deviations made in the grouping of the officers mentioned in group C of the recommendations of the Wordsworth Committee?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the recent reorganization has adversely affected the majority of teachers in the Subordinate Educational Service?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) The answer to clause (*i*) is in the affirmative.

As regards clause (*ii*) the recommendation was made in respect of the appointments shown under groups C, E and F under Teaching and groups B and C under Inspecting of statement B appended to the Report of the Committee.

(*b*) The recommendations of the Committee were modified only on certain points by Government in view of financial and technical considerations after consulting different officers.

(*c*) In the financial conditions of the time, it was found impossible to group together on equal pay officers performing duties differing considerably in nature and in the qualifications they demanded.

(*d*) No. With very few exceptions whose pay remain unaffected, all teachers received considerable improvement both immediately and prospectively.

### Muhammadans on Calcutta University staff.

**184. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the total number of permanent posts, exclusive of professorships, teacherships, and lecturerships, in the Calcutta University carrying monthly salaries between—

(*i*) Rs. 30 and Rs. 100;

(*ii*) Rs. 100 and Rs. 200;

(*iii*) Rs. 200 and Rs. 300; and

(*iv*) above Rs. 300?

(*b*) How many of these permanent posts are held by Muhammadans?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** Extracts from the Report of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University for the year 1921 giving the information wanted by the member are laid on the Library table. Later figures are not available.

### Expenditure on Muhammadan hostels and messes.

**185. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the total amount spent by the Calcutta University on hostels and students' messes during the academical years 1912 to 1921?

(*b*) What amount out of this total sum was spent on Muhammadan hostels and messes?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) and (*b*) The University manage the hostels and messes on behalf of Government and have not spent any amount on them. The Government of India placed in their hands a sum of Rs. 10,95,000 for the construction of six hostels for private colleges and a Students' Infirmary of which Rs. 1,85,400 was spent on land and building for a hostel for the Muhammadan students.

### Hardinge Law College Hostels.

**186. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the total cost of constructing the Hardinge Law College Hostel building?

(*b*) What is the monthly expenditure for maintaining the building?

(*c*) How much was contributed by the University towards the cost of the building and how much is contributed by them for its maintenance charges?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** The University reports as follows:—

(*a*) Rupees 5,21,738 (including land).

(*b*) Rupees 600 (approximately) including municipal rates, insurance and repairs.

(*c*) Rupees 2,21,738 towards the building. The maintenance charge is met from the fees paid by the boarders.

### Telegraph station at Sujanagar, Pabna.

**187. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is no telegraph station within a radius of 12 miles or thereabout of Sujanagar, a place situated within the Sadar Subdivision of the Pabna District?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there is at that place a post office, a thana, a registration office, a rest house, a Middle English School and a big collection office of the Maharaja of Natore, besides a number of collection offices of the local zamindars?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Sujanagar is an important jute and paddy trading centre with many merchants living there?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the opening of a telegraphic station at Sujanagar was recommended by a former Superintendent of Police, Pabna?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for the opening of a telegraphic station at Sujanagar? If so, when will it be opened?

(*f*) If the people of Sujanagar wish to apply for a telegraphic office there, what procedure will they have to follow?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The question was considered in 1919 by the Superintendent of Police, but as the local guarantors required in such cases to indemnify Government against loss in the working of the office (*vide* chapter X, volume II of the Telegraph Manual) were not forthcoming, the proposal was not submitted to Government, nor has any subsequent proposal been received by them. Should suitable guarantors be now available, their names should be submitted, with an application for the opening of the office, to the District Magistrate who will refer the matter to the proper authorities.

## Erosion of Ganges Bank at Pabna.

**188. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state what is the progress of erosion made by the river Padma, month by month, below the town of Pabna between the present steamer station of Pabna and the source of the streamlet Icchamati from 1st March to the 31st July, 1922?

(*b*) Has any money been spent either on repairs or for adoption of any other protective measures to prevent the further progress of the erosion in the area mentioned in (*a*) above during the months of June and July, 1922?

(*c*) How many yards intervened between the river Padma and the streamlet Icchamati at the eastern extremity of the revetment—

(*i*) at the source of the Koshakhali Jola, and

(*ii*) near the mosque,

on the 31st July, 1922?

(*d*) Has the protective revetment been affected in any way by the floods during the months of June and July, 1922?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to repair the damaged portions?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** (*a*) A statement with a plan is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) Yes. A sum of Rs. 5,706 was spent on repairs to the protective revetment during the months of June and July, 1922.

(*c*) (*i*) 270 feet; (*ii*) 750 feet.

(*d*) Excepting that at the end of June, 1922, two lower "sausages" between sections 45 and 46 were washed away, the revetment has not been damaged in any way during the flood.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

**Executive Business Rules.**

**189. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the rules framed under section 49 of the Government of India Act are treated as confidential?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of making those rules public?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The rule framed under section 49(*1*) of the Government of India Act is not confidential, and a copy is laid on the table. The rules under section 49(*2*) are treated as confidential.

(*b*) So far as rules under section 49(*2*) are concerned the answer is in the negative.

*Extract from Rules of Executive Business referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 189.*

* * * * *

11. Save in cases where an officer has been specially empowered by or under any enactment to sign an order of the local Government, every order or other proceeding of the local Government shall be signed by either a Secretary or Deputy Secretary, an Under Secretary or an Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and such signature shall be deemed to be the proper authentication of such order or proceeding.

Every such order or proceeding, which issues from a reserved department, shall be expressed to be made or issued by the Governor in Council and every order or other proceeding which issues from a transferred department shall be expressed to be made or issued by the Governor acting with his Minister and the name of the Minister in charge of the department together with his designation shall be given on the margin.

**Auditing of Union Boards' accounts.**

**190. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of introducing the system of auditing the Union Board accounts by auditors of local accounts as is done in the case of municipalities, district boards and estates under the Court of Wards?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** Under rule 19 of the Union Board Account Rules, the accounts of Union Boards are audited by Circle Officers. The question whether the accounts should also be audited by local auditors was carefully considered at the time

these account rules were framed, and the Accountant-General advised and Government agreed with him, that the audit of the accounts by Circle Officers will provide for a sufficient and independent scrutiny and that it was not necessary to set up any more technical agency for the audit of these funds, which are mostly petty in character. It was also pointed out that the creation of a technical audit staff would very likely result in frustrating the purposes of the Act, the whole idea being to devise a simple system of accounts for the Union Boards. Government still adhere to the same view.

**Provident funds of the aided and unaided recognised schools.**

**191. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are considering the desirability of subscribing to the provident funds of the aided and unaided recognised schools?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount which it is proposed to allot for this purpose and the head of the budget from which the money will be found?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the proposed rules for the management of this fund?

(*d*) When do the Department propose to give effect to this proposal?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The amount to be allotted to, and the rules for the management of, the fund are under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) Government is not in a position to announce the exact date, but it is hoped that a definite pronouncement on the subject will be made at an early date.

**Vice-Chairman, Bhatpara Municipality.**

**192. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bengal Government have recently issued a circular declaring that persons who are not residents or ratepayers of the municipality shall not be eligible for Commissionership?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for the appointment of Babu Syama Charan Bhattacharjee as Vice-Chairman, who is neither a ratepayer nor a resident of the Bhatpara Municipality?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Copies of two circulars on this subject are laid on the Library table.

(*b*) In view of Government orders contained in the later of these two circulars, viz., Circular No. 340 M., dated 20th January, 1922, the question does not arise.

## Unemployment among Indian seamen.

**193. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state approximately the number of Indian seamen employed through the Calcutta Shipping Office during the financial years 1920-21 and 1921-22?

(*b*) What is approximately the number of Indian seamen on the register of the Calcutta Shipping Office to date?

(*c*) To which districts do most of them belong?

(*d*) What rates of wages are paid to the serangs, seacunnies and ordinary lascars including firemen?

(*e*) What is the state of unemployment among the Indian seamen?

(*f*) How many lodging-houses are there in Calcutta and Howrah for seamen?

(*g*) Are these lodging-houses licensed and regularly inspected?

**MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** (*a*) Number of Indian seamen shipped: 1920-21—38,078; 1921-22—39,207.

(*b*) One hundred and four thousand and sixty.

(*c*) Calcutta, Noakhali, Sylhet and Chittagong.

(*d*) Serangs—Rs. 50 and Rs. 60; Seacunnies—Rs. 45 and Rs. 55; Firemen—Rs. 23; and Lascars—Rs. 18 to Rs. 25.

(*e*) There is a considerable amount of unemployment among Indian seamen due to trade depression. The position has been made worse owing to the arrival at Calcutta of a large number of recruits for sea service within the last few months

(*f*) There are 77 lodging-houses in Calcutta and the suburbs.

(*g*) Yes.

## Selection of a Bengali book "Prithibibyapi Mahasamara" as text-book.

**194. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Bengali book entitled "Prithibibyapi Mahasamara,"

published by the Oxford University Press has been approved without being examined by the Central Text-Book Committee or the Dacca Text-Book Committee?

(*b*) Is it a fact that European publishers often get undue preference by the Secretaries to the Text-Book Committee or by the Director of Public Instruction?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) It is a fact. The book, which is a translation of Nelson Fraser's "The World at War," was introduced into all Government and aided high and middle schools in the Province by orders of Government. The translation was prepared under the supervision of the Director of Public Instruction. The book was adopted by the University also.

(*b*) No.

## Hunger strike in Barisal Jail.

**195. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether he is aware that Srijut Satindra Nath Sen has been on hunger strike in the Barisal Jail for over 50 days and 2 others also have been so for about a month?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the cause of this hunger strike?

(*c*) What steps, if any, have the Government taken to remove the causes?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a member of this Council was deputed to inquire into and report on the jail affairs at Barisal?

(*e*) What report has this gentlemen submitted and what action, if any, has been taken on the report?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of the Barisal Jail came to Calcutta to inform the Hon'ble the Member in charge about the jail affairs at Barisal?

(*g*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the substance of what the Superintendent stated?

(*h*) Is it a fact that the father of Srijut Satindra Nath Sen was refused an interview when he intended to persuade his son to take food? If so, why?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to an unstarred question on the subject put by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri at this meeting.

(*d*) No. The member was permitted to visit the Barisal Jail at his own request.

(*e*) He submitted a note for the information of Government and the points raised were fully considered.

(*f*) and (*g*) He came to discuss jail matters with Government.

(*h*) The interview was refused because Satindra Nath Sen was already taking food and an interview had been granted the day before.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Barisal Jail did not see the then Member in charge and left Calcutta without seeing him but after seeing the Secretary only?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

### Fees for examination of adulterated food-stuffs.

**196. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether fees are charged from district boards for examination of samples of ghee, oil, etc., sent by the district health officers to the Public Health Laboratory on suspicion of adulteration?

(*b*) Is it a fact that prosecutions are made at the instance of district boards in cases in which such samples are pronounced to be adulterated?

(*c*) If so, under what law are the penalities imposed, and what penalties are usually imposed on the accused persons?

(*d*) Is it a fact that fines imposed by courts on conviction in such cases are not credited to the district board fund? If so, why not?

(*e*) In how many districts has the Bengal Food Adulteration Act been introduced?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of exempting the district boards from payment of fees for the analysis of samples of food-stuffs, etc., sent up to the Public Health Laboratory by the District Health Officer?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Under rule 6 made under section 20 of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, a fee of Rs. 2 is charged to a local authority for having a sample analysed by the public analyst.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The Food Adulteration Act applies to municipal, but not to district board areas. Any prosecutions instituted for adulteration of food in rural areas must be instituted under the Indian Penal Code. Fines levied under the Code are all credited to the State. In these cases fines are usually imposed, but the amount varies in different cases.

(*e*) The Act has been extended to all municipalities outside Calcutta in which a Health Officer or a Sanitary Inspector is employed.

(*f*) No. The fee is small, and the Minister sees no reason for exempting district boards from payment.

**Sub-Deputy Collectors taken into Bengal Survey Department.**

**197. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the Sub-Deputy Collectors who were taken into the Survey Department, Bengal, since 1917; and

(*ii*) whether all of these officers were given an all-round training of the Department?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the names of the officers, with their respective period of training and employment, in the following branches—

(*i*) Drawing Office;

(*ii*) actual Traverse Survey in the field and office work; and

(*iii*) Miscellaneous Section?

(*c*) Have all the technical advisers now attached to the major settlement operations been trained in all the branches mentioned in (*b*)?

(*d*) Were they actually employed in those sections?

(*e*) If so, for what period and when were they so employed?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of retaining the posts of technical advisers after the amalgamation of Survey and Settlement Departments?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:**

(*a*) (*i*) (1) Babu Dwijadas Mazumdar.

(2) Babu Phani Lal Mukharji.

(3) Babu Satyendra Nath Ray.

(4) Babu Surendra Nath Ray.

(*ii*) One of them was given an all-round training.

(*b*) The periods of training of the officers are as follows:—

Babu Dwijadas Mazumdar—Drawing Office, 17 months; Bengal Traverse Party and Miscellaneous Section, 41 months.

Babu Phani Lal Mukharji—Drawing Office, 34 months; Bengal Traverse Party and Miscellaneous Section, nil.

Babu Satyendra Nath Ray—Drawing Office, nil; Bengal Traverse Party and Miscellaneous Section, 6½ months.

Babu Surendra Nath Ray—Drawing Office, 1 month; Bengal Traverse Party and Miscellaneous Section, 30 months.

(*c*) Technical Advisers before appointment have to be tested and certified by the Director of Surveys before they can be appointed as such. All of them have been trained during their settlement career and it has been ascertained that two of them have had a regular survey training.

(*d*) No. One of them, however, received a special course of training under the Director of Surveys.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

(*f*) Two posts will be retained, one for each settlement party.

**Survey and Settlement Departments.**

**198. Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the officers of the—

(*i*) Survey of India;

(*ii*) Bengal Civil Service; and

(*iii*) Subordinate Civil Service;

with their respective pay and allowances, employed in the office of the Director of Surveys, during the year 1920-21, when the traverse survey programme was conducted on the four-party basis?

(*b*) What reduction in the above staff was effected during the year 1921-22 when the programme was reduced to the two-party basis?

(*c*) What steps, if any, are being taken to reduce the existing staff of officers so as to bring down the expenditure to the minimum on the amalgamation of the Survey and Settlement Departments?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Mr. C. A. O'Donel, who was the officiating Director of Surveys, has lately been employed as the assistant to the Officer in charge, Bengal Drawing Office, a post held by a Sub-Deputy Collector since 1917?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of keeping only one officer of the Survey of India as in Bihar and Orissa to act as the professional adviser, after the amalgamation of the Survey and Settlement Departments?

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** (*a*) A statement is placed on the table.

(*b*) The programme was not reduced to a two-party one in the year 1921-22.

(*c*) The present Director of Surveys will be found a post elsewhere or will proceed on leave preparatory to retirement; another officer will go on leave preparatory to retirement and arrangements are being made to find a post for a third officer elsewhere. Seven posts of ministerial officers will also be abolished. No members of the Subordinate Civil Service are at present employed in the Survey Office.

(*d*) Yes, for a very short period with effect from the 20th July, 1922, as a matter of administrative convenience.

(*e*) No. The organization of the staff is different from that adopted in the province of Bihar and Orissa.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 198(a), showing the names of officers of the (a) Survey of India, (b) Bengal Civil Service, and (c) Subordinate Civil Service, employed in the Office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal, during 1920-21.*

(*a*) SURVEY OF INDIA.

(1) Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) F. C. Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys, Bengal, pay Rs. 2,100 per mensem.

(2) Mr. C. A. O'Donel, Extra Assistant Superintendent and Officer in charge, Bengal Traverse and Miscellaneous Section, pay Rs. 650 per mensem. Charge allowance of Rs. 150, *plus* local allowance of Rs. 100 *plus* Presidency House Rent of Rs. 45. Received a consolidated salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem as Officiating Director of Surveys from 15th May, 1920, for the rest of the year.

(3) Mr. O. E. C. Judd, Extra Assistant Superintendent and Officiating Officer in charge, Bengal Traverse and Miscellaneous Section, pay Rs. 570 per mensem from 1st March, 1920, to 19th November, 1920, and Rs. 610 per mensem from 20th November, 1920, for the rest of the year. Duty allowance of Rs. 150 per mensem *plus* local allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem.

(4) Mr. P. F. Delaney, Extra Assistant Superintendent and Officer in charge, Bengal Drawing Office, pay Rs. 570 per mensem. Duty allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem *plus* local allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem.

(5) Mr. ~~I.~~ Newton, Extra Assistant Superintendent and Technical Adviser to a Settlement, pay Rs. 490 per mensem. Local allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem.

(*b*) Bengal Civil Service.

Nil.

(*c*) Subordinate Civil Service.

(1) Babu Dwijadas Mazumdar, Sub-Deputy Collector and Assistant to Officer in charge, Bengal Traverse Party, pay Rs. 150 per mensem. Local allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem.

(2) Babu Phani Lal Mukharji, substantively *pro tempore* Sub-Deputy Collector and Assistant to Officer in charge, Bengal Drawing Office, pay Rs. 150 per mensem. Local allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem.

(3) Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Sub-Deputy Collector and Assistant to Officer in charge, Bengal Traverse Party, pay Rs. 150 per mensem. Local allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem.

## Government Business.

### The Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** I move that after section 12 of the Chaukidari Act, the following be added, viz —"12A. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 12, the salaries of chaukidars as in force on the 1st day of September, 1922, shall continue to be paid until altered under the provisions of that section."

I should like to explain that I have no intention in bringing forward this amendment or in any way getting round or questioning the decision come to by the Council on the last occasion with regard to the provisions of section 12. I opposed the amendment which was then carried, but the Council was against me and I accept the decision of the Council. At that time I endeavoured to explain that the amendment as it stood was not one that could be worked, but I am afraid I did not make myself very clear. The amendment that was carried by the Council is as follows:—

"The salaries of chaukidars appointed for any village shall be determined by the panchayet of the village subject to the approval of the District Magistrate."

We are informed by our legal advisers that if that amendment becomes law and is put into the Act, the position will be this, that no salaries of

and it will be necessary for the panchayet in every case to fix the salary. If the panchayet chooses to fix a salary which the District Magistrate does not consider suitable or to which he cannot give his approval, there will be a deadlock and the chaukidar will get no pay. The intention of the mover of the amendment and of the House was that any increase to the present salary of the chaukidar should be made on the initiative of the panchayet, that was the gist of it, and I do not think that the Council thought for a moment of the possibility of reducing the pay of the chaukidar. It had been agreed in the Council with regard to the previous section that the salaries of chaukidars in certain places ought to be increased. There has been no suggestion that salaries anywhere ought to be decreased. The amendment, as it stood, would have left it open to the panchayet to suggest a decrease of salary. I think that after the chaukidars had been told that this Bill was going to be brought in for the purpose of enabling their salaries to be raised, it will give rise to a considerable amount of unrest on their part if the Council passed an amendment which would open the possibility of their salaries being reduced. I have therefore discussed the question with the members who moved the amendments and I think I may say that they agree to this proposed addition now which will have the effect that until the panchayet suggests an alteration in the salary of the chaukidar, which alteration is approved by the District Magistrate, the present salary will continue to be paid. I think that this carries out the wishes of the Council and I trust that they will agree to this being passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I move that the Bill as settled in Council be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## Supplementary Budget for the year 1922-23.

### Demands for grants.

### 5.—Land Revenue.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I move that a sum of Rs. 10,000 be granted for expenditure under head "5.—Land Revenue."

There are no motions for reduction of this grant. On pages 2 and 3 of the Grey Book it is explained why we want this amount. This amount is required for increasing the pay of Kanungoes and I trust that the Council will pass it.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 9.—Registration.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I move that a sum of Rs. 1,60,267 be granted for expenditure under head "9.—Registration."

As there are some motions for reduction, I may shortly supplement what is stated at page 5 of the Yellow Book. There are some motions for reducing the scale of salaries proposed. I would ask the Council to remember that the Sub-Registrars generally belong to respectable families and have to maintain some position. The Sub-Registrar is looked upon as somebody in the muffassal and he has to maintain his position. The present scale of pay was fixed in 1905 and since 1905 the rise in prices has been notoriously high. In some of the other services there have been a revision of pay since 1905, but there have been no revision of pay in this service. The Sub-Registrars have to deal with important questions of registration and stamps and their work, although largely mechanical, is important in certain respects. I submit that the scale of pay that I have proposed is not at all high. On the other hand, I have heard a good deal of complaint that the scale should have been somewhat higher. Then there are some motions for reduction of the grant by Rs. 64,300—item No. 2—which we propose for the binding of important registers and for providing furniture, such as, chairs, racks, etc. Since 1914, on account of the war, the Government could do very little in providing for these necessary improvements. At the present moment, there are many offices where there are broken chairs and tables in a dilapidated condition, and the clerks have often to sit on mats, but the more important and the more serious part of the thing is the binding of books and indices. There are about 400 registration offices with many thousands of books. These books are often roughly handled by people who come to search and also by copyists and unless we provide something for the binding of these books and indices, they are likely to be destroyed. So, I trust that the Council will pass this item too.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I move that the demand for Rs. 95,967 under head "9.—Registration—Scheme I" be refused.

We have been called upon to incur an expenditure of Rs. 95,967 this year for the revision of the pay of the Registration officers. As will appear from the note, it is proposed to take effect from 1st September, 1922. The ultimate expenditure will be Rs. 9,19,004. The present expenditure is Rs. 6,33,600; so really the proposal is to increase the expenditure by Rs. 2,85,404 per annum. I beg to ask whether this is the proper time for this additional expenditure, an expenditure not for this year alone but from year to year. It may be said that we have increased the pay of the ministerial officers, and it may further be said that we have also increased the pay as well as the allowance of

the members of the provincial executive and judicial services. That is no reason why we should increase the pay of these officers as well. Government have been pleased to appoint a Retrenchment Committee, a committee to retrench the expenditure. It is proposed under the present system to fix a pay rising from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 a month in the case of the Sub-Registrars. It is proposed not only to increase the pay of the posts but also to introduce a graded system; so ultimately we shall have to incur an expenditure of about Rs. 3 lakhs. It was only a few months ago that we passed three Bills for additional taxation. The object was to meet the deficit in the budget and also to incur additional expenditure for the improvement of sanitation and such other useful works, but what do we find now? We find that the Hon'ble the Ministers have been trying their best to increase the salaries of their own officers. I do not think we would be justified in sanctioning this expenditure. With these remarks, I move my amendment.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I move that the demand for Rs. 95,967 under head "9.—Registration—Scheme 1," be reduced by Rs. 4,800 being the salary of the Inspectors of Registration offices.

Out of a total demand of Rs. 95,967 for the betterment of the condition of officers serving in the Registration Department, I object to only Rs. 4,800 being the salary of Inspectors for next six months. I am surprised that Mr. Addy in his zeal for economy should have thought it fit to cut down the entire demand. It is an admitted fact that the officers in the Registration Department had been very poorly paid and their very just claims had been long neglected. However, as some justice has been attempted to be done, I must congratulate the Hon'ble the Minister therefor. But what seems to me as somewhat queer is, that to do that modicum of justice which he apparently intends to do in the case of District Sub-Registrars, he has practically failed. These District Sub-Registrars had been drawing their grade pay from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. In the proposed scheme, their pays remains the same, but in the footnote it has been shown that they would get a duty allowance of Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 when in charge of Sadar offices. Perhaps the Hon'ble the Minister has been led to think and believes that that is enough. I am really sorry for the poor District Sub-Registrars that it did not strike the Hon'ble the Minister that a duty allowance is only tenable in a Sadar office and there is no bar to a senior man who has been in charge of a Sadar office for a long time and drawing the said duty allowance being transferred to a rural office. The duty allowance would then necessarily stops thus depriving a Sub-Registrar now in the District grade of any benefit under the proposed scheme. Further, these duty allowances do not count towards pension nor are leave allowances based on them. I, however, hope that before passing final orders, the Hon'ble the Minister would find his way to find some remedy for these disadvantages of the proposed scheme. May I

suggest to him to merge this duty allowance into the pay of the senior Sub-Registrar and have a separate cadre for District Sub-Registrars as at present? Now, I come to my amendment which is mainly directed towards the abolition of the posts of two inspectors of registration offices, which the Hon'ble the Minister still retains. I find that the inspecting work is now being done by a variety of officers. The Inspector-General of Registration, the District Officers who are *ex-officio* Registrars, Subdivisional Officers, District Sub-Registrars and Inspectors of Registration offices are all required to inspect the offices under their respective jurisdictions.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I hope you will be very short. There are so many speakers and we have only 20 minutes.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** It is an important matter and I want to deal with it fully. This clearly indicates duplication and quadruplication of works From the Triennial Report on Registration I find that there are 417 Registration offices and on an average they have been inspected in a year 73 times by the Inspector-General, 289 times by 3 Inspectors., 175 times by District Registrars and 531 times by the District Sub-Registrars. It will thus be seen that when even with three Inspectors, the offices could not be inspected once in two years, it would be hardly possible with only two Inspectors, as proposed, to have them inspected once in three years. Further, such inspection, I beg to submit, is useless for all practical purposes. The best way to have the offices promptly and regularly inspected is undoubtedly through the District Sub-Registrars. In fact all the defalcations that had been detected recently were detected by the District Sub-Registrars, who, being personally bound to make good any defalcations, have got to audit accounts very carefully. The District Magistrates who are *ex-officio* Registrars may also be encouraged to inspect the rural offices more frequently. Thus, the work will not suffer in any way if we do away with the posts of Inspectors. I therefore move that these posts be abolished under the new scheme.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 95,967 under head "9.—Registration—Scheme I" be reduced to the extent of the duty allowance proposed for 25 Sub-Registrars.

I want to make only one observation. The expression "duty allowance" is most misleading. A man's salary is his duty allowance. When he does his duty, he gets his salary for it. Why should he get another allowance which should be characterised as "duty allowance"? I have had the advantage of an explanation from the Hon'ble the Minister and if I understood him aright, it was not a duty allowance but an allowance granted for doing something else. If that be so, and if it is a legitimate ground on which the allowance could be

granted, I should like to see this expression deleted and some other suitable expression substituted. It is likely to cause irritation and unpleasantness in the department. It may give rise to a feeling of discontent why these 25 people must be given extra money for doing their duty.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 95,967 under head "9.—Registration—Scheme 1" be reduced by Rs. 5.

I brought forward this motion only to discuss the nature of the proposal made by the Hon'ble the Minister. I spoke to him on the subject yesterday, but after considering the matter carefully, I think that the District Sub-Registrars grade should be quite different from that of Sub-Registrars. They are the inspecting officers of the rural Sub-Registrars' offices and their position should be somewhat superior to that of the other Sub-Registrars. I think the Sub-Registrar of Calcutta and the District Sub-Registrars should be of the same grade. Of course in the proposal there is some economical consideration. I think the proposal made by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray may be accepted. The post of the Inspectors are not necessary, and these posts may be abolished. Two Inspectors of Muhammadan Marriages are not necessary. They may be taken from the grade of rural Sub-Registrars.

The District Sub-Registrars are inspecting officers and they make good any defalcations in the offices under them. The District Sub-Registrars' offices may be inspected by the District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Registration. I therefore think that a special grade would be of some use instead of granting them duty allowance and the post of the Inspectors may be abolished.

There is another consideration, viz., that the District Sub-Registrars are now gazetted officers and the rural Sub-Registrars are not. If they are put on the same grade they will naturally think that their position will be lowered in the estimation of the public. Under these circumstances, there may be a reconsideration of the matter and the District Sub-Registrars put on a separate grade.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I would hardly have spoken, but I find Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri opposes the one additional post of Muhammadan Marriage Registrar. This is very unfortunate as the appointment is sure to be given to a Muhammadan; there can be no other community from which this appointment can be filled. I think the demand should be granted in full and all these amendments withdrawn. This is only a tardy act of justice done to a deserving body of public servants.

**Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE:** It is very astonishing that my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, has raised the objection that the whole of this amount should be rejected. The principal point raised by him is that the financial position of the Government is not very strong, and his second point is that a Retrenchment Committee has been formed and, therefore, we should not increase expenditure, but there are other aspects of the question which have been completely overlooked by my friend. This is a department which brings in income, and we are paying a very small fraction of that income to the persons who bring it in. If increments have been given to everybody, even constables and chaprasis, I do not see any reason why these public servants should not also have their increments. The Sub-Inspectors of Police get much more than the Sub-Registrars, whose position is far superior to that of the former, and their responsibility cannot be compared with that of the Sub-Inspectors. These men are unfortunate, they belong to a higher class of society, they are men of education, but because they have entered this department, they should not be given any increase is not a sound principle. I strongly support the demand.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I must support what Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has said. Whenever my Muhammadan friends and fellow-countrymen want a communal advantage, I must oppose them, but this demand must be acceded to and should be fully granted.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I will first of all take the amendment of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray (item No. 4). I apprehend the Kumar Sahib is under a misapprehension. It will appear that at the present moment one of the Inspectors of Registration draws a salary of Rs. 320 per mensem, and provision is required for six months for promoting him to the grade of Rs. 350—20—450, and the other inspector will also have to be promoted to that grade from the grade of Rs. 300—20—400, so $6 \times 30 + 6 \times 50$, is equal to Rs. 480, and this is the additional sum required for these Inspectors, because their original salary is already included in the budget passed by the Council in March last. Out of this sum of Rs. 95,967 which I am demanding, only an additional sum of Rs. 480 has been included for increasing the pay of these inspectors.

Apart from that question which is a question of calculation, the Kumar Sahib has also suggested that we may do without these Inspectors. I may tell the House that we have tried to manage the department on as economical lines as possible. It appears that under the Madras system, which at one time the Government here wanted to follow, these inspecting officers are given Rs. 500 to Rs. 600, and the idea was that every district should have these inspecting registrars. On the other

hand, the system we have tried to follow is to make the District Sub-Registrars perform not only the actual duties of registration, but also the duties of inspection; but their inspection of 400 odd offices requires some amount of checking, and, therefore, from that point of view, we require some inspecting officers to check their inspection, and their number is less than we have been employing recently.

I do not want to take up any more time on this amendment; I can assure the House that we have tried to work out this scheme as economically as possible.

Then with regard to the criticism of Professor S. C. Mukherji, a point which has been reiterated by some of the other speakers, the position is this: the District Sub-Registrars, as I have already said, do only registration work, but when he goes out inspecting offices in the mufassal some other officer at headquarters, either a deputy magistrate or a sub-deputy magistrate or a probationer will have to do his work there. Therefore, he has his original duty of registering documents and this additional duty of inspection, and this duty allowance is given because he has to perform this additional work. He has to go to very out-of-the-way places, where he may have to walk or go in a country-boat for miles; what we have suggested is far more economical than what they do in Madras. There is prehaps a misapprehension whether the duty allowance counts towards leave and pension; I myself have some doubt about this, but on inquiry from the Hon'ble the Finance Member I have got the assurance that it will count towards leave and pension. Therefore, my friends need not have any apprehension on that point.

This last answer, I think, effectively disposes of the criticism of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

As regards the proposal of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy suggesting that the demand be refused entirely, I do not propose to take any notice of that argument. I would leave it with confidence to the good sense of the Council.

The motion of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy was then put and lost.

The motion of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was then put and lost.

The motion of Professor S. C. Mukherji was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** I have had the advantage of an explanation from the Hon'ble the Minister and I do no want to pres my motion which runs as follows:—

"That the demand for Rs. 64,300 under head '9.—Registration—Scheme 2' be reduced by half."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** I move that the demand for Rs. 1,60,267 under head "9.—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 60,000.

In his last budget speech, the Hon'ble the Finance Member——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I can give you only one minute.

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** Then I will not move it.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Then you withdraw?

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** I am rather forced to withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion, standing in the name of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,60,267 under head '9.—Registration' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I think all these amendments have been withdrawn, so I need not say anything further.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 1,60,267 be granted for expenditure under head "9.—Registration" was then put and agreed to.

### 15.—Other Revenue expenditure financed by ordinary revenue.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I move that the sum of Rs 4,406 be granted for expenditure under head "15.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue."

This is a matter which really relates to the Agricultural Department, and I am sure that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will reply to the criticism that may be levelled against the provision that we are now making in the budget, but it is my duty to explain why, from the point of view of the Irrigation Department, we welcome this provision. As regards our being able to give any officer for the purpose, it is impossible, because we are very much undermanned at present, and we cannot spare any officer, but the necessity has arisen especially in Bankura where there are a number of what have been regarded as minor irrigational schemes and where a doubt has arisen as to whether these schemes should be financed by the Co-operative Irrigation Society, or should be brought under the control of Government in the Irrigation Department. On this, of course, rests the question as to whether for some of these scheme ,

loans for co-operative work should be given by Government; it is therefore essential to classify these schemes, and for that reason we agreed in the Irrigation Department to assist the Agricultural Department to arrive at a conclusion regarding such a classification, and it is for this purpose that this temporary appointment of an Agricultural Engineer with 2 peons and travelling allowance and contingencies, amounting to a total of Rs. 4,406 for six months is being asked for.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I move that the demand for Rs. 4,406 under head "15.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue—Scheme 1" be refused.

As a representative of the landholders in this Council it gives me much pleasure to find that the Government proposes to take an active interest in rural irrigation. This proposal would enable the co-operative irrigation societies to undertake minor irrigation schemes. The Agricultural Improvement and Sanitary Drainage Act, as passed in the last Council, has considerably paved the way for such enterprises by local people and this further step by the Government to place the services of an expert at their disposal would undoubtedly be most helpful to them.

The selection of the districts of Bankura and Birbhum as suitable places to make an experiment with is also a move in the right direction because irrigation canals stand a very fair chance of success in that part of the country.

I fully support the idea underlying this demand, but what I object to is the creation of a new post for the purpose. I am afraid that this new office is only the thin end of the wedge which, if not plucked out at once, would soon develop into a big department of so-called co-operative engineers in every district of Bengal with all their attendant paraphernalia of quarters, officers, clerks servants and heir *et cateras*. I was on the Select Committee of the Agricultural Improvement Act and if I remember aright our intention was that in respect of minor schemes the help and advice of the District Board Engineer and his existing staff would be sufficient. I would have therefore preferred at least to give a trial to what we originally intended. If, however, that be thought impracticable, my next suggestion would be to utilise the services of one of the existing Assistant Engineers from the South-Western Circle, preferably one of the two men posted at Contai. There are at present five such engineers who are employed in that Circle, but the work there is not at all heavy requiring the full-time attention of all these officers. I might point out here that though we keep a huge establishment for the South-Western Circle, the actual work that is annually supervised by them is hardly worth a lakh and a quarter. I am, therefore, hopeful that the object aimed at by the Government by this demand would be equally well attained by a transfer and a little readjustment of the existing staff. I therefore oppose this demand.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I have never been able to reconcile myself to any demand for expenditure on the department known as the Agricultural Department. I am thoroughly convinced that this department ought to be amongst the very first to go, if there is to be any reduction of expenditure. In that view of the matter, when I have got such strong views about the activities of the entire department, I cannot for a moment believe that this appointment of an Agricultural Engineer, or whatever high sounding title may be given to him, can be of any the least benefit to the people. There is another reason why I object to this proposal. It means the creation of a new post, and since this is the first proposal of its kind I wish to make my meaning clear. We wish to oppose all proposals for the creation of new posts on the sole ground that if these posts are sanctioned now it will mean that they will afford Government an excuse for perpetuating the taxation Bills, though they were passed as a temporary measure. All this is being done by the extra money derived from the operation of these taxation Bills, and if these new posts are sanctioned, it will serve as an excuse for Government for perpetuating the expenditure in this direction; that means that these taxation Acts will be made permanent on the Statute Book. Before we know the opinion of the Retrenchment Committee, I would ask my colleagues in this Council to strongly oppose all proposals for the creation of new posts. On these two grounds, I oppose the demand.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I must oppose this demand; although it is stated that it is a temporary arrangement, I am sure it will be soon becoming a recurring expenditure in all the districts. Hereafter several appointments will be made on the same lines. The District Engineer's services can be easily obtained for the examination of these irrigation schemes. I do not think that the District Boards will raise any objection. If necessary, the District Engineer may be assisted by the Overseer. The suggestion made by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray is very useful. I oppose the demand.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** spoke in Bengali in support of this motion.

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** I should like to say a few words on this question from the point of view of the Finance Department. As a rule the Finance Department, as my Hon'ble Colleagues, the Minister know, take very much the same view of new posts as Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq has just expressed, but we have reason to believe that from the financial point of view, an appointment of this kind will be of the utmost value. As every body who knows Western Bengal is aware, there is in the Bankura district scope for a great many small irrigation schemes, and the Co-operative Department has very rightly taken up this matter with enthusiasm.

The result is that we get from the Co-operative Department requests for sanction to issue loans for the purpose of these schemes, but at present we have very little to go upon beyond the enthusiastic commendation of the Co-operative Department, in regard to the soundness of individual schemes. If a scheme is a sound one, our loan is perfectly safe, but if a scheme is unsound the danger is that we are not likely to get our money back and we will then have less money to spend on other new schemes.

Consequently we want to put in an expert engineer capable of advising on the soundness of these small schemes so as to make our loans perfectly safe. We shall then be able to turn our money over and over again for other schemes. It is from the point of view of the Finance Department that I strongly support the demand.

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** The agricultural prosperity of Bankura and Birbhum depends very largely on the development of irrigation. It is well-known that Bankura in particular suffers severely from any shortage of rainfall. Facilities for irrigation, however, exists and are capable of development at a comparatively small cost The problem of how these facilities can best be utilized has been dealt with by the Co-operative Department and we have decided that the best method is the establishment of a net-work of co-operative irrigation societies which will utilize the natural resources of the district, re-excavate existing tanks and dig new ones. A number of these societies are already in existence and are working satisfactorily. A great many more are ready as soon as their schemes can be worked out or examined by a qualified engineer. As I have said the schemes include tank irrigation and the excavation of channels from rivers and streams. Besides this, there are schemes of a more complicated kind involving the erection of dams across one or more rivers, and the design and excavation of distributaries. All this requires engineering knowledge. The storage tanks have to be provided with some means of escape so that during heavy rain the excess water may be safely passed away. Channels led from streams may do serious mischief if wrongly aligned. Dams across larger rivers can only be carried out by an expert engineer or the work will be a failure and may even cause a disaster. The existing staff of the Irrigation Department is unable to undertake this work, nor can we adopt the suggestion of the Kumar Sahib that District Engineers should do the work. They are the servants of the District Board and Government have no control over them. Meanwhile the cultivators are waiting in hope. Successful irrigation schemes will be an economy to Government as they will reduce the liability to famine and distress. I can assure the Council that this co-operative irrigation movement has roused enthusiasm and keen expectation among the cultivators, and I trust

that they will not disappoint these hopes but will vote the small sum of money required to realize them.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY, Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** then, by leave of the Council, withdrew their motions.

The motion for reduction, which stood in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was then deemed to have been withdrawn owing to absence of the member.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI'S** motion was then put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 4,406 be granted for expenditure under head "15.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue." was then put and agreed to.

## 22.—General Administration.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I move that a sum of Rs. 36,363 be granted for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration."

This refers to two items the first with regard to furniture in Government House which is public property and has to be repaired every year. It is obviously in the public interest that this furniture should be renewed every year otherwise it might fall into decay. This item, Sir, is to meet the temporary annual repairs.

The other item is explained in the Memorandum and I will not waste the time of the Council by explaining it again. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education will explain anything that is attacked.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** I move that the demand for Rs. 26,789 under head "22.—General Administration—Scheme 2" be refused.

This refers to the appointment of a Special Officer to the Education Department of the Bengal Secretariat. It appears that this scheme has been forwarded with a recommendation from the Government of Bengal to the Government of India and is now pending the Secretary of State's sanction. It appears that Mr. J. N. Roy has been entrusted with special duty in this department on a salary of Rs. 2,750 per mensem. So it appears that the Bengal Government, without waiting for the sanction of the Government of India or of the Secretary of State, has already appointed an officer on such a high salary. We have been speaking of retrenchment and the Bengal Government has been pleased to appoint a committee for the retrenchment of expenditure, but on the contrary, we find that additional posts are created from time to time and this post has been filled up even in anticipation of sanction of higher authorities. I would say that it is an insult to the higher authorities and an insult

to the Council that the Government of Bengal should appoint an officer on such a high salary without getting the sanction of the higher authorities. Now, Sir, what do we find? It is said that these costs are incurred owing to the Reforms. Is this Reform? By Reforms I find additional taxations have been imposed—I find increments of salaries and allowances to officers, and I find increment in the number of officers. Is this considered to be the retrenchment of expenditure? If this is reform, I am sick of it. So far as the Education Department is concerned Government has thought fit to make an additional contribution of only two lakhs and a half to the Calcutta University though that University has been suffering from a heavy deficit. They have made a contribution of Rs. 9,00,000 to the Dacca University.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the hon'ble member relevant?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You had better confine your remarks to your motion.

**Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Government are trying their best to increase the pay of officers and create new posts without waiting for the sanction of the Council or of the higher authorities. I would oppose it so long as we do not get the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** spoke in vernacular opposing the grant. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

Unfortunately for Bengal, the number of officers are steadily increasing. Education has greatly deteriorated, but we find that the number of inspecting officers and the rates of their pay are always on the increase. If the work of the Education Department has become heavier than before, why not engage a junior competent Civilian? I think if my proposal is accepted, the work of the Education Department will be smoothly managed. With these few words, I support the motion.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I had a talk with the Hon'ble the Minister in charge who explained matters to me. I do not like to press my motion.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I also do not like to press my motion.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I would not like, to press my motion.

The following motions were, in the absence of the movers, deemed to be withdrawn:—

**Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** "That the demand for Rs. 26,789 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 2,' be reduced by Rs. 13,000."

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** "That the demand for Rs. 26,789 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 2,' be reduced by Rs. 9,100."

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** "That the demand for Rs. 26,789 under head '22.—General Administration—Scheme 2,' be reduced by Rs. 7,500."

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** From the attitude of my friends, it appears that the House has been convinced about the necessity of having a full-time Secretary to the Hon'ble the Minister for Education. Considering the grave questions of education and of educational reforms, which are coming up for our consideration—for instance, the Calcutta University Act, the formation of a Board of Secondary Education, etc., and also considering the accumulation of work in hand, I think it absolutely necessary that we should have a whole-time Secretary for the Hon'ble the Minister to advance the cause of education in this province. It appears form the motions of refusal, that some members were for reduction, but now they have been convinced of the necessity of having a whole-time Secretary, and I think the House will allow the demand of the Education Minister.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** The note of the Department appended to the Budget makes it clear that the grant, as a temporary measure, should be allowed, but when it goes further and says that an additional permanent Education Secretary is to be appointed, I must say, I cannot agree with the Department. The reason given is that it is to give effect to the Sadler Commission's Report. That reason does not satisfy me. So long as the Universities Act is not passed, I think, there is some justification for a temporary Secretary; but after the Universities Act has been passed, the luxury of a separate Education Secretary seems to me to be extravagent The University would be independent of the Government and I believe the Secondary Boards will also be independent of Government, and there will be very little work left for the Government to do except in the matter of primary education. That being so, I think, so far as the permanent Secretary is concerned, I am opposed to it.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** May I explain to the Rai Bahadur that the present grant is for a temporary appointment? We can discuss the permanent grant when we come up for it at some future date.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I only protest against the premanency of the present appointment.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I beg to oppose the motion of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy. I hope it will be conceded that I am one of those members, who have been fighting for retrenchment in this

Council. But it seems to me that things are being carried too far. It may be that retrenchment has got into the brains of some of the members. In season and out of season, they will go on asking for retrenchment without considering whether that particular retrenchment is good for the country or not. I would ask the mover to seriously consider the position which had been created in the Education Department. The position was very anomalous, before this Secretary or special officer was appointed. The Director of Public Instruction would pass orders on certain files as Director, and then again, as Deputy Secretary, he would have to consider these orders. The same officer would act in the dual capacity of Original and Appellate Courts. Now, can any member seriously suggest that this procedure was at all conducive to good work, or to the right performance of duty? We all felt that the Education Department was suffering for want of a permanent Secretary. The matter was most important. We have all been trying for primary education. We are all anxious to have new schemes formulated in this department; so we should have a permanent Secretary and I do not see why Babu Amulya Dhone Addy should take exception to it

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** After the discussion which has taken place, I do not think that I need detain the Council by any lengthy remarks. The reason for this grant is stated on page 9 of the Memorandum and I need only add that the members should realise that the Education Department has got to deal with a budget of roughly 1 crore 30 lakhs of rupees, about 47,000 primary schools, a large number of Middle English Schools, 900 high schools and the two Universities I can assure the House that from actual experience I found that for want of a Secretary work suffered and the position became a very difficult one, but I do not propose to enter into details I have enough confidence in the good sense of the House and I am sure the House will pass my demand.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy's motion was then put and lost

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 36,363 be granted for expenditure under head "22.—General Administration" was then put and agreed to.

## 24.—Administration of Justice.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I move that a sum of Rs. 10,915 be granted for expenditure under head "24.—Administration of Justice."

This is a demand in respect of the arrears of salary of the Administrator-General and the Deputy Administrator-General of Bengal. The facts are rather complicated and I am not surprised that the gentlemen who have given notices for reduction of the grant might want information as regards this item. The history is a long one and I do not

think I should be justified in taking up the time of the Council by narrating the whole history. But I must point out how this demand has arisien.

Mr. Kinney, the present Administrator-General and Official Trustee, was appointed as Deputy Administrator-General as far back as 1903. He was first appointed to act as Administrator-General in February, 1913, about 9 years ago, and, from that time he has practically throughout been acting as the Administrator-General and afterwards as Administrator-General and Official Trustee—when the two offices were amalgamated—with only a few breaks, until the date of his confirmation. His pay is Rs. 2,000 rising by annual increment of Rs. 100 to Rs. 2,500. As a matter of fact he has been, as I have said, acting as the Administrator-General for 9 years with certain breaks. Those breaks occurred from various causes. The main reason why he was not confirmed earlier was that the scheme for the amalgamation of the two offices of the Administrator-General and the Official Trustee was under the consideration of the Government of India, and it took a rather long time before the scheme was finally sanctioned. As regards Mr. Morgan, he was first appointed to officiate as Deputy Administrator-General in 1910, that is about 12 years ago and he went on officiating in that appointment till 1915 when he joined the war. He was away at the front for some years and then he came back and rejoined the appointment. It is well-known that this Government and the Government of India have laid down that any breaks in service will be condoned if they were caused by an officer joining the war both as regards the leave and the pay. I should also like this House to bear the fact in mind that these responsible offices are held by professional gentlemen of some standing in their profession and it would not be fair to keep them officiating for a long time or as what is called technically, *sub protem*, so as to retard their promotion. If the question of amalgamation did not take such a long time, Mr. Kinney would have drawn his full pay long ago, and Mr. Morgan would also have been entitled to draw the maximum of his pay. When these officers pointed out their grievances, this Government recommended to the Government of India that they should be allowed to draw their maximum pay from 7th of February, 1920, and the Government of India sanctioned the application, and thus this demand is made to meet the difference in pay from that date.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 9,090 under head "24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme I" be refused.

This is one of the most extraordinary demands placed before this Council. It is practically asking for retrospective pay of two officers, who are already getting high pay, because, forsooth, the India Government has sanctioned it. I do not know whether the Bengal Government liked this retrospective pay, because, we find no provision for it

in the original budget of the year. The argument given for this demand is a very curious one, and I do not know what the Accountant-General had to say to it. Mr. Kinney was first appointed in 1913 and confirmed in 1920. One would have thought that the position was quite clear. But now let us listen to the specious argument of the Government. If he had been confirmed in 1914 instead of 1920, he might have got this rate of Rs. 2,500. Well, why did you not confirm him in 1914? Are you going to evade the rules by such special pleading? Because, you have been able to raise extra money by heavy taxation on the poor people, you must squander this money in this way? The argument in favour of Mr. Morgan is more curious still. He was appointed in 1910, but there were breaks in his service and then he resigned. He just gave up his job. He was reappointed in 1919 and confirmed in 1920. Now here is the special pleading for him. Had there been no interruption, he would have been entitled to this rate. But, Sir, there was an interruption in his service. It has been said that he went out to join the war. Very well, give him any bonus you like from the military department. But why should this Government pay for his war services? How can you come forward to waste public money on such theoretical and flimsy arguments? This province has had to pay more than 10 lakhs of rupees in retrospective pay! We thought we had heard the last of these But still they come! The India Government permits them to take this money We must pay the money. Is this provincial autonomy? Will the Government of India recoup us for the money? If they like that these officers should be helped, why do they not pay the money?

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** There are certain offices, the utility of which I have never been able to understand. All these posts of the Administrator-General and the Official Trustee and the Official Assignee are a few of these. My own view is this, that these posts are absolutely useless and it is time that they should be abolished. However, that is not the point for consideration at present The immediate question is whether we should spend about Rs. 10,000 out of the money derived from extra taxation in order to enable certain gentlemen to recoup their pockets owing to the fact that they could not draw that pay for reasons for which this Council is not responsible. In one case it is nearly Rs. 4,000 and in another case Rs. 5,000 and it is proposed to recoup these gentlemen by these sums. I would point out in the first place that these gentlemen draw a fairly high salary and I do not think that they are any the worse for not having drawn this money and that if we do not grant them these amounts they will be in any way inconvenienced. I am sure that they can afford not to draw those Rs. 10,000 and I wonder if they themselves have shown any grievance for not drawing these arrears of pay. I am inclined to think that by reason of the fact that we are now short of cash we should not thrust this money into the pockets of these gentlemen and that if the position is properly explained

to them I doubt not that they will be the very first to refuse to be recouped their money which has been derived from the extra taxation. Believing that these gentlemen do not require the money, I think that this money ought not to be spent in this way. I fully support my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, in refusing the demand. I hope the Council will combine in this matter as it is a question of principle. The money which has not been drawn need not be drawn now. It is a question of economy and of principle.

The following motion, standing in the name of Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,090 under head '24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme I' be reduced by Rs. 5,289."

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** Mr. Fazl-ul Haq is often very witty and humorous, but I think on this occasion he has surpassed himself. I am perfectly sure that he does not know the facts relating to the appointments of Messrs. Kinney and Morgan, otherwise he would not have said that they would not be at all eager to press their claims. If there has been some delay in the matter of meeting their claims, that was partly at least due to the procedure that had to be gone into in their case. We had to go up to the Government of India for orders and hence the delay. But for the facts that I have mentioned Messrs. Kinney and Morgan would have drawn their full pay from the 7th February, 1920. It has been said by Mr. Fazl-ul Haq—I do not think he really meant it seriously—that the offices of the Administrator-General, Deputy Administrator-General and the Official Trustee are useless sinecures. It is well-known that these offices are of the greatest use for the management of estates that have to be managed under the care of Government. Sometimes applications for estates to be taken charge of by the Administrator-General have to be refused. I must say this, and I hope the House will bear it in mind, that Messrs. Kinney and Morgan have reorganised these offices on a sound footing. Some time before they came in, these offices were not managed as efficiently as they might be, but now it cannot be denied that they are managed very well indeed. The estates, which altogether are of considerable value, are properly looked after, to the great benefit of the beneficiaries and at the same time not a single pice of Government money is spent upon these offices or the staff, that is to say, whatever we pay in the shape of salaries and allowances, and the cost of establishment is more than recouped from the amounts that are levied from these estates. So the demand which I am at present making will not be a charge on the revenue at all; it will be paid by the estates that derive benefit from these offices. Mr. Fazl-ul Haq complains, and so has also Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, that he cannot understand why these amounts were not drawn before. If I were to go into the entire history, it will be a long affair, but I would

point out generally that the question of the amalgamation of these offices was under the consideration of the Government for a long time. Mr. Kinney was, however, doing this work throughout, and it was not his fault that the scheme was not brought into operation at once or within a reasonable period of time. We cannot keep a man on a post of this character officiating or *sub pro tempore* for an indefinite period of time, without giving him the full salary of the post.

As regards Mr. Morgan's case, I was rather surprised to hear Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta say that Government were wrong in allowing Mr. Morgan to count the period during which he was serving at the front, towards increment. I should have thought that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta knew as I am sure the House knows, that in every case where civil officers left their office in order to join the army, they were allowed, on return, to count for full service the time when they were at the front. I have no doubt that the Council will agree that there was good reason for allowing Mr. Morgan the maximum rate of pay. On these grounds, I oppose the motion.

On the motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

**NOES.**

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Lang, Mr. J.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.

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| Roy, Raja Manilall Singh. | Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan. |
| Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus. | Swan, Mr. J. A. L. |
| Spry, Mr. H. E. | Walsh, Mr. C. P. |
| Stark, Mr. H. A. | Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. |
| Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. | Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. |

The Ayes being 19 and the Noes 54, the motion was lost.

The following motion was then put and lost:—

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** "That the demand for Rs. 1,825 under head '24.—Administration of Justice—Scheme 2' be reduced by Rs. 95."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 10,915 be granted for expenditure under head "24.—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

## 25.—Jails and Convict Settlements.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I move that a sum of Rs. 3,000 be granted for expenditure under head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

This is meant to meet certain bills aggregating Rs. 2,000, which were not sent in by the Calcutta Corporation last year. These bills are in connection with the supply of electric current, water, etc., to the temporary jail at Kidderpore. The remaining amount is for the cost of replacing, in their proper places, the stores which had been removed from the sheds used as a temporary jail. The only motion for reduction is one which stands in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, it this is the deduction of his usual *dasturi*, I hope he will withdraw the motion and save the time of the Council.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** "That the demand for Rs. 3,000 under head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements—Scheme 1' be reduced by Rs. 150."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 3,000 be granted for expenditure under head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

## 31.—Education (Reserved).

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** I move that a sum of Rs. 1,54,000 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Reserved)."

This amount is required, as explained on page 15 of the Supplementary Estimate, as the actual amount required under direct grants to

point out generally that the question of the amalgamation of these offices was under the consideration of the Government for a long time. Mr. Kinney was, however, doing this work throughout, and it was not his fault that the scheme was not brought into operation at once or within a reasonable period of time. We cannot keep a man on a post of this character officiating or *sub pro tempore* for an indefinite period of time, without giving him the full salary of the post.

As regards Mr. Morgan's case, I was rather surprised to hear Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta say that Government were wrong in allowing Mr. Morgan to count the period during which he was serving at the front, towards increment. I should have thought that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta knew as I am sure the House knows, that in every case where civil officers left their office in order to join the army, they were allowed, on return, to count for full service the time when they were at the front. I have no doubt that the Council will agree that there was good reason for allowing Mr. Morgan the maximum rate of pay. On these grounds, I oppose the motion.

On the motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

**NOES.**

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Lang, Mr. J.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.

contribution from provincial revenues (apart from large contributions from Imperial sources) towards the expenditure of primary schools or even special schools for Europeans and Anglo-Indians comes up to nearly 42 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Next, I may draw the attention of the Council to the fact that such an increase is not necessitated by the progress that primary education is making among the European and Anglo-Indian boys. It will be seen, on referring to the reports on Public Instruction in Bengal for the years 1919-20 and 1920-21, that the number of European schools (elementary including preparatory and ungraded) was only 11 in 1919 educating 4,731 pupils. In 1920, not a single school was added to this number; only the total number of pupils went up to 4,783, that is only about 50 new students were added. In 1921, there was the same number of schools, but the number of students was slightly higher, namely, 4,799. Thus it will be seen that whilst schools providing education of an elementary type to Europeans and Anglo-Indians did not increase even by one during the last 3 or 4 years and whilst the number of boys getting education in those schools did not increase even by 100, the grants to these institutions are going to be increased—if this grant is allowed—by 400 per cent. As against this, I may point out to the Council that the number of schools meant for primary education of Indian boys has increased from 34,271 in 1919 to 35,696 at the end of 1921—that is by about 1,500 schools in 3 years—an average increase of 500 schools per year; and the number of pupils receiving education in these schools has increased from 1,145,000 in 1919 to 1,181,000 at the end of 1921, *i.e.*, there is an increase of 36,000 boys in two years or 18,000 boys per year. Yet while a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs represented the Government grant for European Primary Schools, and that sum also was going to be increased by a recurring grant of Rs. 1,31,000, we find, that the provision made in the principal budget for grants to primary schools meant for Indians was Rs. 23,00,000 and that could be augmented in the supplementary budget by a further provision of only Rs. 2, for the extension of Primary Education and of which only Rs. 15,000 was meant for recurring expenditure. I therefore see no justification at all to support such a recurring grant on a lavish scale, and I am disposed to think that if the Government allow the whole of this grant to European primary schools they will countenance and the consequence will be such a "thoughtless expansion" that its parallel will not be found either in the University, secondary or primary education in the province. Moreover, the net result of this increased grant will be that the cost per pupil in European schools which is already too high will be higher. It will be seen on referring to the reports, that the average cost per pupil in Indian primary schools is only Rs. 2 or does not exceed Rs. 3, whereas in European schools it is at least Rs. 16 or Rs. 17, if not Rs. 78 to Rs. 83 as Mr. Wordsworth was telling me, and if this grant is allowed, the cost will be doubled if not trebled per boy. At any rate,

the result will be, as I have said before, that the grants to European primary schools will be increased by 400 per cent. in course of five years. Whether it is justified or not, whether the present financial situation can allow it or not, whether the progress that has been made in the European primary schools demands it or not, it is for the Council to decide. I have only given the facts and figures as they are in the budget and in the reports. Mr. Wordsworth was telling me that the Budget figures regarding grants to non-Government primary schools for Europeans were not correct, but so long as they stand unchallenged and uncorrected, I am rather disposed to go by them than by any other figures

With these words, I move that the demand for Rs. 1,34,000 under head "31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 1," be reduced by Rs. 67,000.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** spoke in Bengali in support of the motion. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

The previous speaker has already said what I had to say. But I might observe here that the cost of European education in this country is almost prohibitive, when compared with the cost of Indian education. The late lamented Queen Victoria looked upon her Indian subjects without distinction of race, caste and creed, and we take pride in the fact that we are no longer the subjects of the East India Company, but the subjects of His Majesty's Government. I submit, Sir, that there should be equality of treatment in matters like this. We represent the masses of our country, and we are the spokesmen on their behalf in this Hall. We would, therefore, be called upon to explain if we remain dumb in this Council, no matter whether our wailings are listened to or not. It is the duty of the Hon'ble the Member or the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to remedy or remove any defect that may be found in us. But we should be lacking in our duty, I again say, if we do not represent a true and graphic picture of the innate feelings of our dumb millions who are reposing their confidence and trust in us. The money that is spent for European education is, of course, realised from Bengal, and as such if the greater part of the money is spent on European education, a very small proportion is left only for Indian education. I would, therefore, most strongly protest against this course of action, and urge that half of the amount should be cut from this item.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

* "That the demand for Rs. 1,34,000 under head '31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 1' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

**Babu INDU BHUSAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 1,34,000 under head "31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 1" be reduced by Rs. 500.

From the amount of reduction that I propose, it will be clear that I move this amendment not to cut out this grant but to discuss the principle of the matter. I think it will be better if I say outright that I have no quarrel with European education or with any education for the matter of that. What I want to know from the Hon'ble the Member is this: on what principle are the different allotments for different heads of education made in the budgets? What, for example, is given for European primary education or for European secondary education and what for Indian primary education and Indian secondary education; what is the number of schools and the number of students that derive benefit out of that grant for European education? I should be obliged if the Hon'ble the Member in charge, would, in his reply, be pleased to explain the position before the Council, so that in future budgets we might know how much would be allotted for the different departments of education, and take our action accordingly. The present position is not at all clear. It is shrouded in mystery.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I shall deal with the last speaker first. He has asked on what principle the different budgets are framed. As regards the budget of the transferred Department of Education, it is a matter for the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to reply, and there is not much for me to reply on the present occasion, because the principle of European education stands on a very different footing from that of Indian education. The principle that we apply, so far as it will meet Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's query, is this that so much money is granted to the reserved side and so much to the transferred side as is put up as necessary for expenditure in the reserved and transferred sides, respectively. As I have already explained in my opening remarks I do not think that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was here then—this amount is not merely made up of grants for what is commonly known as primary education, in the sense that we consider a grant for primary education in Indian schools This contains special grants like the one which we give to the Kalimpong Homes; it contains grants of a charitable nature as Free Boarders' grants. Now, this grant amounted in 1918-19 to Rs. 1,24,000; in 1920-21, it was Rs 1,47,000, and it is the same amount now. If we take the large figure (Rs. 1,50,000) out of the total grant for what is known as European education, it will be seen that the latter figure is really purely for primary schools as understood in that sense.

Now, as regards the comments made by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, I am sorry that, apart from the question of facts and figures, which I shall deal with for the moment, he has gone into the question of extra-preferential treatment and luxuries, but it must be understood by him that the standard and mode of living of Europeans is very different from that of Indians. As to the extra-preferential treatment, that question

cannot arise, for the simple reason that primary schools for Indians are run on quite a different footing from that of primary schools for Europeans.

As regards his argument that the amount we are budgetting for is not commensurate with the progress of European and Anglo-Indian education, it is a matter which, I think, could easily be challenged by those who know more about European education; but as a matter of general principle, I might say that whereas, in the case of Indian primary education, there is room for very large expansion in the case of Europeans that room for expansion is not so large in this sense that we do not find that the number of boys grow every year to any very great extent; but, on the other hand, funds are necessary, because every available Anglo-Indian or European boy is put into a school which is not the case with Indian boys.

Now, as regards the figures, I believe the hon'ble gentleman has had certain statements given to him by the Director of Public Instruction. Now, he has mentioned certain figures in the budget for which he says that in a particular year Rs. 75,000 was only given and it has now risen to Rs. 2,00,000 and odd. But the question is this: that in the year to which he has made reference that Rs. 75,000 was really the contribution of the Provincial Government, but since the Reforms came into operation, the large contribution which the Government of India used to make for European education direct is now shown in the Provincial Budget and that makes up the large figure or most of it, to which he has made reference.

With regard to the amounts of grants that appear in the Budget or the Blue Book or the Grey Book, whichever he may call it, the figures that are now shown there are, I am advised by the Education Department, incorrect; and the Accountant-General has admitted that fact, and that, I believe, is due to the distribution of the amounts under the different heads of the Budget. Anyhow if we look at the total grant made in 1918-19, and the total grant that we now ask for, we find that in 1918-19, the total grant on this head came to Rs. 3,75,102 and to-day, including the Rs. 1,34,000, which is now being asked for, it would come to Rs. 3,99,000. Therefore, the figure is not so very great as the hon'ble mover of the amendment would make it out to be. For these reasons, I think we are perfectly justified in asking for this amount because, as I have said, the figures include charity grants to institutions like the Kalimpong Homes, the Loreto House, etc., and also the very large amounts which I have already mentioned in reply to Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's query regarding the Free Boarders' grant for destitute children. These institutions are schools and in some cases orphanages. The Budget is, therefore, educational and charitable combined and any reduction of the figure that we have asked for would cause a considerable amount of inconvenience and hardship to these institutions; and I am

sure that the members of this Council who are all in favour of education and who have broad minds enough not to bring in questions of a racial nature, will vote for the amount that I have asked for.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's motion was then put and lost.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head "31.—Education (Reserved)—Scheme 2" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his motion. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

I only move for Rs. 10,000 for the allotment for Hindus and Mussalmans.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** May I, with your permission, reply in a few words in Bengali to the Shah Sahib?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Yes, certainly.

On the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur explaining to the Shah Sahib, the latter asked for leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 1,54,000 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Reserved)" was then put and agreed to.

### 31.—Education (Transferred).

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I move that a sum of Rs. 67,828 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Transferred)."

There are several motions for reduction in the various items. So, I think, it will save time if I reserve my remarks at this stage and give my answers after I have heard hon'ble members.

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur and Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur** being absent, the following motions, standing in their names, respectively, were deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,056 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 3" be refused."

"That the demand for Rs. 7,993 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 4' be refused."

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I move that the demand for Rs. 20,127 under head "31.—Education—Scheme 5" be refused.

My motion touches a demand for a grant to the Jagannath Intermediate College at Dacca. I am opposing this demand with a view to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to the state of affairs in this college. In the first place, I have been repeatedly told that Muhammadan students do not get proper facilities for admission into this college, and recently a few Muhammadan boys, I am told, were refused admission on the ground that they had cultivated a little beard. (Laughter.) I had recently occasion to go to Dacca and I wanted to see a few of these boys who had been refused admission. I met one of them and I found that they had been guilty of having cultivated a little beard, not of a formidable character but only an apology for a beard. I do not know if it was the criterion of deciding whether a boy should be admitted or not; but whatever that may be, the number of Muhammadan boys in this institution is exceedingly small. I could not get the figures but I was told that it was not more than 5 per cent. of the total number. This Jagannath Intermediate College plays a very important part in education in Eastern Bengal in consequence of the establishment of the Dacca University; and if Muhammadans do not get proper facilities at this institution, it is monstrous that an institution of this kind should receive any public assistance of any shape or kind whatever. It is, therefore, with a view to protest against the action of the Jagannath College authorities that I oppose this demand for a grant. If the Hon'ble the Minister in charge is good enough to look into these matters and gives us a promise that he will see that these things are not repeated and that Muhammadan boys shall be given free facilities for getting admission, I shall be prepared to withdraw my objection to his demand.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA and Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur** being absent, the following motions standing in their names, respectively, were deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 20,127 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 5' be reduced by Rs. 8,092, as proposed in item (II) of the scheme."

"That the demand for Rs. 7,702 under head '31.—Education—Scheme 5 (III)' be refused."

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** Whenever any question of public importance comes to be discussed, my friend, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq brings in the Muhammadan question. (A voice: "Very strange.") Ten times in the day he brings in the Hindu-Muhammadan question. (A voice: "Not always.") I have supported him and will always support him in every legitimate demand, but when he goes out of his way and wants an undue advantage, I must oppose him. I believe that in this matter he has been asking for an undue advantage. He says that the college authorities cannot be counted upon to do justice

and give the Muhammadan boys a fair-play as they should do. I think after all that the Muhammadan boys were rejected not on the ground of having cultivated a little beard but probably because they passed in the third division. I know that such boys are refused admission into the Presidency College.

**Maulvi FAZL-UL HAQ:** These boys passed in the first division.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** If, for a small matter like this, the grant to the Jagannath Intermediate College be refused, I do not know where we should stop.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** The only motion for reduction before the House is that moved by Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq It is rather inconvenient to deal with a question of this nature on a motion for reduction: for example, if my friend had informed me as to the number of Muhammadan boys that were admitted and the number that, according to him, should have been admitted, and if he had given me an opportunity of inquiring into these things, I would have been in a far better position to deal with the matter I can, however, assure my friend that I am always prepared to go into the question and to decide it on its merits. There are certain facts relating to the Jagannath College which I would bring to the notice of the Council and of my friend

The Jagannath College is a college which was established by private effort and most of the subscribers were Hindus. I believe my friend, Raja Manmatha Nath Roy Choudhury of Santosh, and his family had something to do with the improvement of this college. Other prominent men in Eastern Bengal also contributed towards its funds Subsequently when the Dacca University was established, the Government of India passed an Act—the Jagannath College Act—by which the College with all its properties was vested in the Government. Since then, the arrangement made by Government has been to place it in the hands of a Governing Board with the Commissioner of the Division as its President. In the grant, which I am proposing, about Rs. 10,000 have been found from funds originally belonging to the Jagannath College trustees and we have yet to receive larger sums from the funds originally belonging to the Jagannath College trustees Be that as it may, I can give this assurance to my friend that I am prepared to go into the matter if the question is brought to my notice in a definite form and to deal with the question justly on its merits. In a neighbouring institution, viz., the Dacca Intermediate College, so far as I remember, the Muhammadans have 50 per cent. of the seats alloted to them and as regards the Jagannath College I am quite prepared, if necessary to lay down a definite proportion with due regard to the past history of the institution and the facilities offered in the other educational institutions of the town. Well, as regards the suggestion that Muhammadan boys

were turned out because they had grown a little beard, I would perhaps leave that out for the moment.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur** being absent, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,000 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 6' be reduced by Re. 1."

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** I move that the demand for Rs. 22,432 under head "31.—Education (Transferred)—Scheme 7" be reduced by Rs. 9,950, being the sum provided for the Comilla and Pabna Zilla Schools.

This sum is provided for manual training in the Zilla Schools at Pabna and Comilla. As the sum is in part meant for the Zilla School of my district, I thought thrice before I put in this motion for a reduction. I do not think that there is any necessity whatever for supporting a scheme for workshops and making provision for teachers in the two Zilla schools when there are already technical schools both at Pabna and Comilla. The former school has already been provincialised and is entirely under the control of Government. Now let us examine the provision which is going to be made for the manual training of the boys. There is a provision of Rs. 1,525 for the construction of workshop; for the cost of tools, benches, etc., Rs. 2,000; pay of one manual instructor and one additional teacher at Rs. 50—2—80—3—110 per mensem and for two months only—January and February, 1923. I see that the recurring cost for two months is a very heavy sum, as well as the initial cost for equipment and for the provision of tools, etc. Of course it is a good idea indeed to impart manual training to the boys of the Zilla schools, so that they may learn some work which might enable them to get remunerative posts hereafter. But, at the same time, we must show some necessity for the money which is going to be spent and should try to save as much money as possible by adopting any other suitable course of a less expensive character. There is no justification whatsoever for spending money which we can avoid doing so. If there is want of sufficient room in the workshops of Pabna and Comilla, some provision should be made for more room. The sum of Rs. 2,000 or a considerable portion of it can be saved by proper arrangement of classes. Then again, what type of teachers can we expect on Rs. 50 rising to Rs. 80 and afterwards to Rs. 110? Under the district boards we cannot get a better man than a lower subordinate or a sub-overseer on this pay who draws, in addition to this pay, travelling allowances for going to the mufassal. If such a man be put in charge of a workshop, he

will never be able to discharge his duties efficiently and will totally fail to maintain discipline over the boys under him. The best thing, therefore, would be to make additional provision for class rooms and implements for the existing technical schools. It would also be better to transfer this amount to some other Zilla schools where there are no technical schools. Therefore, I think this amount should be refused now, and if after examining the pros and cons it be found that the suggestions that I have made are not acceptable for some reason or other, provision can be made in the next annual budget. There may be some objection to the boys reading in the Zilla schools being admitted to the technical schools as they are two distinct institutions. But I admit that the authorities of those schools specially intended for the purpose of imparting manual training are the best persons to look to the discipline and control of those boys.

With these words, I submit that this amount intended for those two technical schools should be refused.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I support the amendment proposed by my friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed. I had the honour of presiding over the All-Bengal Teachers' Association a month ago and there I found, the teachers as a body, and the headmasters of high schools as a body, were opposed to the introduction of manual training in high schools. It is a fact which must be taken into consideration by the Hon'ble the Minister I find that in no country in the world is this system in vogue in matriculation examinations. Why poor Brahmin, Kayastha and *bhadralog* Muhammadan boys should be forced to learn carpentry and smithy work is beyond my comprehension. Further, there are technical schools at Bogra and Pabna on which a large sum of money is spent and I do not understand why we should incur further expenditure for technical education in schools at Pabna. Pabna does not want it and nobody wants it and I can assure the Hon'ble the Minister no one wants to take advantage of it. There are many important matters which require money. Primary education is neglected; there are no colleges in many districts and subdivisions and money ought to be spent for these purposes. I protest against this sort of expenditure.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** I also support the motion which has been put forward by my friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, and think, as my esteemed friend, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, has already drawn attention to the fact, that money obtained by taxation ought not to be spent in this way. There is already a technical school at Pabna, where the Zilla School boys may undergo manual training. Similar is the case of Comilla. What is the use of starting these workshops again and at a cost of Rs. 200 a month? For two months the contingency charges would be about

Rs. 125. If this state of things continues, I do not know to what length this expenditure would go and whether there would not be any necessity for additional fresh taxation. I may be permitted to say something in this connection about what prevails in the Rajshahi district. There is a technical school at Rajshahi and the boys of the Collegiate school are taking their manual training there in carpentry and smithy. Not only do the B class boys go, but other students have also the option of getting their training there. The schools are quite close to each other and the boys get their manual training without much inconvenience and much extra cost. Whatever may be the fate of this resolution, I should ask the Hon'ble the Minister to think over this question and to curtail all possible expenditure.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** spoke in Bengali in support of this motion. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

I think that if the amount wanted by the Comilla School is refused a sheer injustice will be done as my colleague, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, has already said. I do not wish to reiterate his arguments.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** My hon'ble friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, asked me for certain detailed information a short time ago. At that time, unfortunately, I was not in possession of it, but I have now got it. The position briefly is this The boys of the Comilla Zilla School, previously used to have manual training in the local Technical School which is also a Government institution. This arrangement has, however, been stopped by the authorities in charge of the Technical School from the last Puja vacation. The authorities of the Zilla School and the Director of Public Instruction are pressing us to start a manual training class. That is the reason why we have proposed the present scheme with regard to the Comilla Zilla School. We used to pay Rs. 200 a month to the Technical School for this work, but under that arrangement we could give the necessary training to only a few B class boys. Our present object is that with the amount we have asked for, we shall not only train B class boys but also all grown-up boys who desire to undergo this training. We do not want to force them as my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, thinks. The desire of the Education Department is not to force every Brahmin, Kayastha, and *bhadralog* Muhammadan boy to attend this manual training class. My friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, may set his mind at rest. To those boys, not merely the boys of the Government school, but if possible also boys of private schools in that particular town, who are willing to undergo manual training, we propose to give an opportunity. Although my friend, the Rai Bahadur, is of opinion that there is no demand for it—I have a great respect for my friend's opinion—I have been constantly flooded with insistent demands for providing manual

instruction in Government as also in private schools. My friend, the Rai Bahadur, seems to think that this is a new venture on the part of the Education Department. Nothing of the kind. We have 22 manual training classes attached to certain Government and private schools in different parts of this province. It is a fairly old scheme which has been in operation in different parts of this province and fairly popular, but I do confess to a desire to expand it and that expansion will be on the line that, whereas under the old system we confined our activities either to a single Government school or to a single aided school, we now propose that if other private schools are willing to come forward and share the expenses, we propose to take them in. With this amount, it will be possible for us to give manual training to those Bengali boys who are willing to come forward and we can train them at a much cheaper rate and more efficiently if we have a central workshop for several schools and not separate workshops attached to each school. The Khan Bahadur's information about the Comilla School is perhaps slightly inaccurate because from the last Puja vacation the authorities of the Technical School have stopped this arrangement.

As regards the Pabna Zilla School, the position I find is this. We used to pay the local Technical School a monthly grant of Rs. 70; in exchange they used to teach a few of our B class boys only. They have demanded an increased grant of Rs. 200 a month and that amount, I understand, will be only for the B class boys. Now if we provide for this amount and if we can take in the boys from the lower forms of the school and also the boys from other schools who are willing to join, this money, I am advised, will be well spent. We do not want to force anything on any constituency. If a constituency does not want it, I shall be very pleased to spend this money elsewhere because the needs of the Education Department are very great. If my friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, will write to the Department of Public Instruction, after returning home, and consulting his constituency that his constituency does not want this workshop I shall consider the matter very carefully. I want much money for many necessary purposes elsewhere and if Pabna does not want it I do not want to give it, but at the present moment, according to our information, Pabna wants it badly. The Head Master there wants it, the Divisional Inspector wants it and the Director of Public Instruction wants it. The present arrangement for manual training is about to be stopped. First of all, the demand is raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 200 and the difficulties, which we had to encounter at Comilla, I understand, are to be encountered in Pabna too, so that if manual training be stopped, I hope that Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed would not come later and complain against the stoppage. I am quite willing to listen to his advice, but let him consult his constituency and write to the head of the Department of Public Instruction. That being the position, I trust that the House will pass this grant.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original motion that a sum of Rs. 67,828 be granted for expenditure under head "31.—Education (Transferred)" was then put and agreed to.

**32.—Medical.**

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I move that a sum of Rs. 7,354 be granted under head "32.—Medical."

There are certain details given in the Grey Book and I find there are certain amendments to be moved in connection with this very small grant. It will be time for me to reply to these amendments and then perhaps it will be possible for me to explain the grounds for asking this grant.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 2,200 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 2" be refused.

I must say that I do not understand why this demand is brought forward before this Council, in the second Supplementary Budget. If this was absolutely necessary, it might have been brought in the usual course in the Budget in March last. It seems to me to be rather curious that a Civil Surgeon should find it necessary to travel in a luxurious steam launch. There are many river districts in Bengal and I think there is no demand from any other district for steam launches for Civil Surgeons. Barisal is a great centre of steamer traffic, but on this point, I understand, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray will dilate, so I am not going to trouble the Council with that point. Surely, the Civil Surgeon of Barisal might travel by steamers, but if he finds it necessary to use steam launches to go round to places within his jurisdiction, he can very easily arrange to go out when the Magistrate goes out on tour. Some such arrangement is certainly possible. Last of all, the Council should not be asked to grant a steam launch to this Civil Surgeon who is also the Superintendent of the Barisal Jail, against whom we moved an adjournment of the House the other day.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think you should not refer to him personally.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I not put that as a protest against him?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I think you are not entitled to say anything against him personally but you can protest against this grant.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I am not saying anything against him personally, but may I not give my reasons why I oppose this grant?

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Certainly you can, but you must not say that because the man is a bad man he should not get this amount.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** He is not going to use the steam launch in going to the Barisal Jail. (Laughter.)

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** In addition to the reasons I have advanced, I protest against the manner in which he has managed the Barisal Jail and ask the Council to refuse the demand.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR Ray:** I move that the demand for Rs. 2,200 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 2" be reduced by Rs. 1,200.

This is absolutely a new demand, the like of which we have never met with in any of the previous budgets. Apparently, Major Munro, the heroic Superintendent of the Barisal Jail, finds it too irksome to avail himself of the ordinary means of communication in that district for the discharge of his ordinary duties as a Civil Surgeon. There had been Civil Surgeons before his time, and they when visiting the dispensaries, used to charge their ordinary travelling allowances travelling by the several steamer routes which crowd the rivers of Barisal. But Major Munro must be a superior person——

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** May I rise to a point of order? Is not the speaker rather confusing the issues by bringing in the personal element? I have nothing to say whether Major Munro is a good man or a bad man, but I take it that this grant is being asked for by the Hon'ble the Minister in connection with the supply of coal that is required by the Civil Surgeon when he uses the District Magistrate's launch. If that be so, then it is a grant that every successive Civil Surgeon will demand.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Kumar Sahib, please confine your remarks to the motion under discussion.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Very good, Sir, my motion is only to oppose the grant by which the Hon'ble the Minister proposes to give Major Munro Rs. 2,200 to consume in the form of coal.

The unprecedented character of this demand should naturally lead us to subject it to the greatest scrutiny. Why does the Civil Surgeon want a steam launch? The reply would at once be for inspecting the mufassal dispensaries and the three sub-jails at the three subdivisional stations. There are about 32 dispensaries outside the headquarters, and of these almost all save only four or five, are at places which are steamer stations or within easy reach of steamer stations. Here is a map of Barisal. There are some places which are on the direct steamer routes

from Barisal. For instance, one can go from Barisal to Muladi within two hours and from thence, Gournadi is only one hour's journey. Barisal, Nalchiti, Jhalakati, and Pirojpur are within an hour's journey from each other. So is also Bhola, an hour and a half's journey from Barisal, and Daulatkhan and Nishchintapur, from whence one goes to Buranuddin and Tanrijuddin, are steamer stations on the same route. From Barisal to Patuakhali is 5½ hours' journey, and from Patuakhali again, such places as Amtoli, Galachipa, Kanakdia, and Bauphal are within three hours' journey. And from Pirojpur again, such stations as Kowkhali, Sarupkati and Banaripara are within three hours' journey. Bhandaria and Matbaria, the steamer station of which is Tushkhali, are also within very easy reach of Pirojpur, and Jhalakati, Neamati, Phuljuri and Dayuno are all steamer stations. I do not know what type of information is in the possession of our Hon'ble the Minister, but if he consults any good time-table—and here I have got one—and a list of dispensaries in Barisal and also a copy of Major Jack's District Gazetteer and then compare the list of the places where there are dispensaries with the steamer stations, and consults a map, I am quite sure that he would also agree in coming to my conclusions.

I can understand why the Collector of Barisal should have a steam launch. He may have to go out on tour at any moment, and to have an intimate knowledge of his district he may need going to outlying places. But a Civil Surgeon, at the most, visits only once every year, each of the dispensaries within his district. And it is common knowledge that there are many dispensaries in almost every district that are not visited by the Civil Surgeon for years together let alone once a year. Hence the demand of Rs. 2,200 for coal alone for the inspection-*cum*-pleasure trips of the Civil Surgeon seems to me preposterous. If the present Civil Surgeon think it beneath his dignity to travel by the steamers in which commoners travel, he may ararnge, if he so pleases, with the Collector, when the latter officer goes out on tour, and, Sir, there is another important point. If once we accede to such unreasonable requests, perhaps next year we shall be told that as the Civil Surgeon takes out the Collector's steam launch, the administration of the district suffers, and so a separate steam launch for the Civil Surgeon may be made to appear an absolute necessity. It is far better to pluck out the wedge as soon as its thin end appears.

And, Sir, the preposterousness of the demand would be more patent if we compare the total Government contribution for actual hospital work with this demand for a fractional part of inspection. From the latest Report of Hospitals we learn that in 1920, the total Government contribution to these mufassal dispensaries in Barisal, excepting those at headquarters has been only Rs. 2,341, an amount almost equalling the price of coal intended to be consumed by the Civil Surgeon. If this sum of Rs. 2,200 be distributed among these 29 hospitals, I am quite sure it

would do greater good to this district. I therefore propose to refuse the demand to the extent of the amount required for the remaining months of the year.

**Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN:** May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister if the Civil Surgeon is entitled to get his travelling allowance in addition to coal?

**SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Coode):** He receives his halting allowances, which in his case amounts to Rs. 5 a day, and he does not receive mileage.

**Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED:** May I ask what was the amount of travelling allowance of the Civil Surgeon last year?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** He owes the District Magistrate nearly Rs. 500 for coal last year. I shall deal with this question when it comes to my turn to reply.

**Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED:** If he had not used the launch, what would have been his travelling allowance last year?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** If he had used his own boat, he would have received mileage.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** I support the motion of my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. In my own district, I know the Civil Surgeon uses the Public Works Department launch, but he gets travelling allowance; he never spends any money on coal, but as I now understand, if the travelling allowance was not paid, then the matter is all right, but if he has already drawn travelling allowance in addition to coal, I think this is unthinkable.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** There are several points which have been raised in the course of the debate and it is necessary to refer to them in some detail. The first point to which I desire to draw attention and which has excited no little surprise in this House is that this is the first time that a provision of this kind has been made in the Budget. The reason is obvious. An order has been issued by the Finance Department to the effect that each department must pay its own travelling charges. Formerly the Civil Surgeon of Barisal and other places used to travel in the Magistrate's launch, and to pay nothing for it; the coals were all paid for by the Magistrate. In consequence of the new arrangement, it has become incumbent on the Civil Surgeon to pay for the coals out of his own budget, and already he owes a sum of nearly Rs. 500 to the Magistrate on account of having used the launch last year. The reason why this matter has been brought forward so late is thus explained.

Then it has been said by my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, that this is "a preposterous demand." I think those were the words he used. If it is so preposterous, why is it that he himself suggests that Rs. 1,000 should be paid for this purpose? If it is preposterous, it becomes inconceivable, and should be dismissed without further discussion, but instead of that, after having used this strong language—and strong language has a strange fascination for him—we find to our utter amazement that there is in the amendment that he has moved, this provision for Rs. 1,000. I am afraid that a part of the feeling which he has displayed and which has to some extent been echoed by one or two speakers, is due to the bitterness which has found expression in this House against Major Munro. Let us not think of Major Munro, let us think of him as X; let us think of him as a Civil Surgeon discharging a certain public duty, which is incumbent upon him as an obligation of his office, and I am perfectly certain if it had not been Major Munro, then this motion would not have been brought forward. I sympathise with the feeling that influenced the members of the Council, but the fact is we have to meet a demand made by a Government servant in the performance of his duties, and I ask this House to say whether they will dismiss this demand outright because it so happens that the Government servant concerned is unpopular at the present moment with a large majority of this House? I am sure the House will rise above all these personal considerations. I am sure the members of this House are in a position to look at the question from the standpoint of abstract justice, and justice demands that in such a case, whether it is Major Munro or anybody else, the performance of his duties should be provided for in the manner set forth in this demand.

It has been said that the Civil Surgeon might have availed himself of the Magistrate's launch; but surely, my friend knows that their engagements are very different. The Civil Surgeon cannot stay away from the headquarters station for any length of time, whereas the Magistrate may go and stay away for 18 or 20 days at a stretch. His duties at headquarters may wait. But the Civil Surgeon must, as far as possible, stay at headquarters; suppose he has a case of *post mortem* examination, or a case of suspicious death, which has to be looked into at once. He has also other duties to fulfil. Is the Civil Surgeon to follow the Magistrate like a shadow to the neglect of his own duties, to the detriment of public work? I am sure my friends will not force the Civil Surgeon to this position. It is impossible for him to travel with the Magistrate in the same launch having regard to the duties which he has to perform.

The next point urged by my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, is that the Civil Surgeon should avail himself of the ordinary steamer service, and he unfurled a big map or chart in support of his argument, and said, "here are the means of communication which are open to the Civil Surgeon. Why does he not avail himself of them—is he such a great man that he must have a launch of his own?" Now let us suppose that

the Civil Surgeon has to go to Bhola. He takes the ordinary steamer and then the steamer stops at that place and goes somewhere else, dropping the Civil Surgeon at Bhola. The steamer comes back after two or three days. Is the Civil Surgeon to remain there until the steamer comes back? If he follows the ordinary steamer route he may be detained for two or three days at one particular place. Thus, it is quite apparent that he cannot possibly avail himself of the ordinary steamer service having regard to the exigencies of his duties, nor can he go as an associate of the Magistrate; and the Bakarganj district is traversed by great waterways and they form the only means of communication, and he must avail himself of some kind of suitable conveyance; here is the Magistrate's launch; all that we ask for is to pay the expense of the coal which is consumed for this purpose. Is it not a reasonable demand? It is really taking money from one pocket and putting it into the other—money taken from the Civil Surgeon's budget and paid to the Magistrate's. It is really a transfer from a transferred department to a reserved department. Under the former arrangement the Civil Surgeon would not pay for the consumption of the coal; but the Magistrate paid for the Civil Surgeon; under the recent orders, the Civil Surgeon has to pay out of his own pocket and pay the money to the Collector's budget. Therefore, I hope and trust that this House will not be swayed by any feelings other than those of justice and fair-play, and that they will be swayed by considerations relating to the merits of the case, and the merits of the case demand that there should be an overwhelming majority in favour of accepting my motion and rejecting that of my hon'ble friend.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Does the Hon'ble the Minister know that there is a daily steamer service between Bakarganj and the outlying places?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** No.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion was then put and lost.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's motion was then put and a division taken with the following results:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

**NOES.**

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Mr. C. D. M.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rae, Mr. W. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 24 and the Noes 41, the motion was lost.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that the demand for Rs. 2,200 under head "32.—Medical—Scheme 2" be reduced by Rs. 1,100. He spoke in Bengali, a translation of his speech is as follows:—

Rupees 2,200 has been fixed for the coal charges of the Civil Surgeon of Barisal. The previous speakers have already justified the utility of this expenditure. If this grant is allowed to Barisal, the Civil Surgeons of the other districts will naturally come forward with such proposals in future. We have not sufficient funds for medicines—an essential necessity for life. Dispensaries do not keep a large quantity of medicine. Get medicines in any quantity you like, I shall be the last person to object to any such proposals but for the coal charges of the Civil Surgeon of Barisal, a lump sum of Rs. 2,200 seems to me to be an absurd item, which can never meet with my approval.

The motion was put and lost.

As the time allotted for the discussion of the head had expired, the motion of Raja Manilall Singh Roy was put without further discussion. It was as follows:—

"That the demand for Rs. 3,000 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 3' be refused."

The motion was lost.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur** being absent, the following motion, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 800 under head '32.—Medical—Scheme 5' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 7,354 be granted under head "32.—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

### 33.—Public Health.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDA NATH BANERJEA:** I move that a sum of Rs. 67,865 be granted for expenditure under head "33.—Public Health."

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that the demand for Rs. 38,215 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 2" be refused, and delivered a speech in Bengali in support of his motion.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 20,500 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 2 (*b*)" be refused.

The explanation that has been given in the note regarding the necessity for this demand is hopelessly insufficient and unsatisfactory. It is said that because some grants-in-aid have been sanctioned in the supplementary estimates for some new schemes, therefore, a sum of Rs. 20,500 is necessary for the work of supervision. This is too costly a proposal in view of the schemes that have been sanctioned and the grants-in-aid given. Moreover we are not as yet sure whether the schemes have been launched or not. I therefore think it is premature to ask for this demand.

With these remarks, I beg to move that this demand be refused.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** I beg to support the motion of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri.

The member being absent, the following motion, standing in the name of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 38,215 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 2' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The member being absent, the following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 20,500 under head '33.—Public Health—Scheme 2 (*b*)' be reduced by Rs. 10,500."

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA** moved that the demand for Rs. 38,215 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 2" be reduced by Rs. 5,325.

This sum is composed of retrospective pay of three officers of the department. Retrospective pay is an item, which has cost the Government more than 10 lakhs of rupees, and I think it is time to put a stop to this sort of thing. These officers are already getting high scales of pay,

and only lately the Secretary of State has given them an increase. I have no quarrel with their increments, but I say we ought not to give them any back pay.

**Mr. S. W. GOODE:** These estimates are based on orders received from the Secretary of State regarding the pay of the specialist service. These orders were issued in 1921. The specialist service that we are concerned with at present is the Sanitary Engineering service, and the rates of pay have been based on the rates which were sanctioned for the Public Works Department partly in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Works Reorganisation Committee. It has been suggested by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta that although he would not cavil at the rates of pay, he thinks it inexpedient in the present state of our finances to give retrospective effect to these proposals. As a matter of fact, retrospective effect has been given in the very smallest degree in this case. You will find that in the case of Executive Engineer Captain Berry, retrospective effect has been given from September, 1921, otherwise he is entitled from the date of the Secretary of State's orders to the pay which it is now proposed to give him. In the case of Captain Webster, no retrospective effect has been given. Under the age rule he is entitled to all that we are asking for him in accordance with the Secretary of State's orders. In the case of Mr. K. C. Banerjee we propose to pay him arrears of pay, Rs. 3,300, to which he is entitled under the age rule, laid down by the Secretary of State. As regards the other officers—I mean the subordinate officers—these rates have been strictly based on the rates of pay granted to Assistant Engineers in the Public Works Department. In fact, these proposals deal far less generously with these officers than what the Local Self-Government Department originally proposed. We discussed the case at great length with the Finance Department and have finally adopted proposals which this Department thought were adequate, and I think the criticism which has been made by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta in this case is quite unjustifiable.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has referred to the provision for temporary establishment of Rs. 20,500. He has suggested that this allotment, or part of it, should be cut out of the estimate. Now, Sir, we think it quite possible that we shall not require to spend the whole of this provision, but it is necessary to give us an adequate allotment to engage temporary staff for executing works which we undertake on behalf of municipal bodies. It would obviously be uneconomical for this Department to employ a large permanent staff sufficient to cope with all the work that falls to the Public Health Department throughout the year. We prefer to engage temporary staff as each of these local works of water-supply, *e.g.*, the Midnapore water-supply scheme, the Dacca Sewerage scheme, etc., is taken up. These appointments will cease as soon as the particular work ceases. As I have said, it is quite possible

that we shall not require the whole of this money, and we shall see that every economy is observed in its expenditure, but I hope the Council will agree to vote this demand, as it is very difficult for us to suggest precisely what amount we shall require.

No other criticism, as far as I am aware, has been made on the proposal now before the Council, and I trust that the motion of the Hon'ble the Minister will be accepted.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** As I observed yesterday, suburban municipalities are interested in the water-supply question and eight applications have already been received for schemes of water-supply. We must have a staff for that purpose, and it seems to me that a temporary staff is what is required, because when a particular scheme is finished, the staff may be dismissed and there would thus be a saving. Thus it is obvious that for the purpose of water-supply schemes in which this House is interested and rightly interested, it is necessary that we should have a temporary staff. As Mr. Goode has pointed out this is the most economical procedure that we can follow. I hope, therefore, that the objection will be withdrawn.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's motion was then put and lost.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion was then put and lost.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 3,000 under head "33—Public Health—Scheme 3" be reduced by Rs. 50.

As would appear from the amount of reduction, which I propose to make, it is merely a question of principle. The principle involved is this: Can you expect important technical work of this nature from honorary workers? I submit, Sir, that for continued technical work of this importance you must have paid workers. It will not do merely to give him an allowance. If you want real good work which can be controlled by the department, which can be looked into by the departmental officers and which can be done thoroughly we should have paid workers. On that principle I move this motion.

**Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** I move that the demand for Rs. 3,000 under head "33.—Public Health—Scheme 3" be reduced by Re. 1.

In 1907, Sir Edward Buck, K.C.S.I., the late Secretary to the Government of India, Agricultural Department, and Mr. Hutton were deputed to Italy to study the methods there employed for the prevention or mitigation of malaria. It is called "bonificazione" in that country. The utilisation of the silt-laden water of the rivers is the main factor in the method and there is the admirable report of Sir Edward on the subject.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** What is the date of the Report?

**Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** The year is 1907.

Being struck with the good effect on the health of the localities on the left side of the Damodar where malaria rules supreme from the silt-laden water after the great flood of 1913, I was led to address the Government a letter enclosing a note on driving away malaria by the Italian process ("bonificazione"). It was well received by Lord Carmichael, the then Governor of Bengal. The subject formed the first and the most important item in the "All-India Sanitary Conference" that was held at Lucknow in January, 1914, and it was piloted by Sir Edward Buck himself and there is the report of this conference too, and I pray these two reports may be forwarded to Mr. Inglis. I had the honour and privilege of knowing him well and we cannot but be very grateful to him for what he wants to do for our country even in his retirement. It was he who compiled and edited that very useful volume called "The Canals and Flood Banks of Bengal" and by looking into it we expect that his report on "bonificazione" will be of great benefit to Bengal, as he will no doubt be able to bring the thing up-to-date to suit the province from his great knowledge of the same. I hope "The Canals and the Flood Banks of Bengal" will be made up-to-date by him at no distant date.

I think that even now enough data are with us in Sir Edward Buck's report and in other things to go on with the process, at least with its preliminaries without the report from Mr. Inglis. Some sanctioned projects are before us for many years and the delay in taking them up has made our heart sick. Simply "reports" and "projects" on paper will not drive away malaria from the land.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I was a bit surprised at the motion of which notice was given by Raja Maniloll Singh Roy. He is so eminently reasonable that I thought this represented a departure from the usually rational frame of mind which he displays. But towards the end of his speech I found why he was going to make or rather did make certain criticisms in the first part of his speech. He has paid a compliment—a high encomium to Mr Inglis—and I can assure him that Mr. Inglis fully deserves it. Raja Maniloll Singh Roy wanted a discussion and he has had it We are getting the benefit of the services of Mr. Inglis who does not charge us anything. He only takes his out-of-pocket expenses. He is in Italy now, where he is studying the condition of the country and how the system of "bonificazione" is working. He was Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department and is thus eminently qualified for the duty which he has imposed upon himself. We ought to welcome an offer of this kind, and we should be grateful to him for making it, and we should not grudge for a moment

his out-of-pocket expenses which amounts to Rs. 3,000 only. My friend, the Raja, referred to a conference that was held in 1914. This is 1922 and since then much progress has been made in our knowledge in this respect. Having regard to all these circumstances, I hope and trust the House will reject Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion, and as far as my hon'ble friend, the Raja Sahib, is concerned, I believe he is going to grant the amount even without the reduction of one rupee.

Raja Maniloll Singh Roy, by leave of the Council, withdrew his motion.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion was then put and lost.

The following motion, which stood in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, was deemed to be withdrawn, owing to the absence of the member:—

"That the demand for Rs. 23,000 under head '33.—Public Health—Scheme 5' be refused."

The orginal demand that a sum of Rs. 67,865 be granted for expenditure under head "33.—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

## Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 31st August, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

## Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 31st August, 1922, at 3 P.M.

### Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 90 nominated and elected members.

### Starred Questions

### (to which oral answers were given).

### Disposal of the dead body of a prisoner of the Pabna Jail.

*LXXIII. **Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the dead body of a prisoner of the Pabna Jail was placed near the local morgue and kept exposed there?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what was the name of the prisoner and where was his residence?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said dead body was devoured by jackals and vultures?

(*d*) Why was not this dead body cremated or buried, as the case may be, and why was it placed near the morgue and kept there in an exposed condition?

(*e*) Under what laws and rules can the dead bodies of prisoners be placed outside the jail and exposed, as was done in this case?

(*f*) Was any information sent or intimation given to his house regarding the death of this prisoner?

(*g*) If so, how many days after his death was this intimation sent?

(*h*) Was any public body such as the Anjuman-i-Islamia or Congress Committee or private person at Pabna approached by the jail authorities for the disposal of this dead body?

(*i*) If the answer to (*h*) is in the affirmative, what persons or bodies were approached?

(*j*) If no persons or bodies were approached, what is the reason for it?

(*k*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to issue instructions to the jail authorities for the proper disposal of the dead bodies of prisoners in future?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) It is not a fact that the dead body of a prisoner of the Pabna Jail was placed near the local morgue and kept exposed there, nor is it a fact that it was devoured by jackals and vultures. The member is probably referring to the dead body of a Hindu convict of an untouchable class belonging to the district of Rangpur which was placed inside the compound of the jail morgue for a *post-mortem* examination but not exposed. After the *post-mortem* examination the cremation charges were paid to a Dome who removed the body for the purpose of cremation.

(*f*) and (*g*) Notice was sent to the Fulchari police-station, within the jurisdiction of which his house is situated, on the morning following his death.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) The question does not arise.

(*j*) The prisoner belonged to an untouchable class, and there was no association of this class at Pabna.

(*k*) The question does not arise.

### Trial of certain political prisoners at Midnapore.

***LXXIV. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that most of the political prisoners tried at Midnapore under section 17 (*a*) and (*b*) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Babu Pramatha Nath Banarji, B.A., the ex-Headmaster of the Contai National School, who has only one hand (the left hand having been amputated long ago), has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reducing or commuting the sentences passed on the political prisoners tried at Midnapore?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes. Twenty-five were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and nine to simple imprisonment.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

### Alleged delay in delivery of a letter addressed to a prisoner of Barisal Jail.

***LXXV. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a letter directed to Satindra

Nath Sen, a prisoner now on hunger-strike in the Barisal Jail, from Sir P. C. Ray, written with the object of inducing him to take food, was handed over to the Jail Superintendent for delivery to the said prisoner?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, on what date was the said letter handed over to the Jail Superintendent or his office and on what date was it actually delivered to Satindra?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The letter was received by the jail authorities on (or just previous to) the 26th July, 1922, and was immediately submitted by the Superintendent of the Barisal Jail to the Inspector-General of Prisons for orders about its delivery to the prisoner, as under the ordinary rules the prisoner was not entitled to receive a letter. Sanction was given as a special case and the prisoner got it on the 4th August, 1922.

### Arbitration courts of non-co-operators.

***LXXVI. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is correct that non-co-operators have established courts in the mufassal and that they are trying cases both civil and criminal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the names of the places where such courts have been established?

(*c*) What action, if any, has been taken or is being taken against the organizers of such courts?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the procedure of such courts established by the non-co-operators in the thanas of Jamalpur and Raona in the district of Burdwan?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) Yes, so-called arbitration courts have from time to time been established in various places in the mufassal and have purported to try civil and criminal cases.

(*b*) A complete list of such places is not available, but their establishment has been reported at one time or another from nearly all the districts of the province.

(*c*) In most cases the people they have oppressed have been afraid to give the evidence necessary to secure a conviction for extortion, assault and so forth. Executive action has been taken wherever possible; in many cases the so-called courts have died of inanition and in some the responsible inhabitants of the locality have put them down.

(*d*) Government have no information regarding any court at Raona. At Jamalpur a court existed for about a month and dealt with four or

five petty cases. The procedure was for a member of the court to send for the parties and, after hearing them, deliver judgment. The sentence usually took the form of subjecting the accused to a shoe-beating or pulling his ears and making him stand and sit a certain number of times, or the infliction of a fine, which was given to the complainant.

### Cost of maintenance of the Victoria Memorial.

***LXXVII. Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the details of the monthly expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred for the Victoria Memorial, stating the names of the employees and their pay?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Government have not the required information. The maintenance of the Victoria Memorial is vested by law in the hands of a body of Trustees.

### List of newspapers allowed to prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail.

***LXXVIII. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that there is in the Alipore Central Jail a list of newspapers allowed to prisoners and that this list contains such orthodox newspapers only as the *Englishman*, the *Statesman*, etc., and does not contain the names of papers like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Servant*, the *Nayak*, etc.?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Yes. It has been ascertained that a list of newspapers, approved by him under rule 1048 K of the Jail Code, for special class prisoners has been drawn up by the Superintendent, Alipore Central Jail. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

### Authority of members of the Jail Standing Committee to visit jails.

***LXXIX. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the date when the members of the Jail Standing Committee were given authority to visit any jails?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that on the 19th of June, 1922, a circular letter was received by the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail, which asked him to afford facilities to the members of the Jail Standing Committee to visit the jail?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons why the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy, a member of the Standing Committee on Jails, is not mentioned in the list given in the aforesaid circular letter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The 7th April, 1921.

(*b*) No such circular letter was issued. A circular with the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy as member of the Standing Committee was issued on the 4th July, 1922.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member been drawn to the fact that the date (19th June) mentioned in the question refers to the receipt and not to the issue of the circular letter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson:** The question does not arise. If no letter was issued it could not have been received on the 19th June.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Dr. Suhrawardy was elected a member of the Jail Standing Committee on the 3rd April, 1922?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Yes, so I understand.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleaser to state whether it is a fact that the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy does not appear in any circular letter regarding the members of the Jail Standing Committee issued to, or received by, the Superintendent of Alipore Central Jail between the 3rd of April and the 4th of July, 1922.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I think I have already answered that.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** With reference to the second part of the answer to question (*b*) to the effect that a circular with the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy as member of the Standing Committee was issued on the 4th July, 1922, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to explain how does the answer arise.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray):** The question is not clear.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** My question is this: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that on the 19th June 1922, a circular letter was received by the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail, which asked him to afford facilities to the members of the Jail Standing Committee to visit the jail. The answer of the Member is that no such circular letter was issued Then a sentence follows that a circular letter was issued with the name of Dr. A. Suhrawardy as a member of the Standing Committee on the 4th July, 1922. My question is will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how does the second part of the answer arise?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** It arises by a process of prolepsis.

### Orders allowing fruits to Muhammadan prisoners in Alipore Central Jail during "Ramzan."

***LXXX. Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state on what day of the *Ramzan* the orders allowing fruits at their own expense to fasting Muhammadan political prisoners reached the Superintendent, Alipore Central Jail?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the orders reached the Jail Superintendent, Alipore Central Jail, too late for the fasting Muhammadan prisoners to benefit by the concession?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) On the 23rd day of *Ramzan*, corresponding to 22nd May, 1922.

(*b*) This is not quite correct. As a matter of fact the Superintendent had some days previous to the receipt of official orders acceded to their request to be allowed to purchase fruits and milk from outside at their own cost, but only one or two took advantage of it.

### Alleged Council of Action formed by Bakarganj District Magistrate.

***LXXXI. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department aware of the action of Mr. Waddell, the District Magistrate of Bakarganj, in starting a body called the Council of Action, and that the principal officers of the district are members of that body?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member been drawn to the proceedings of the Council in which it was proposed to take action against such pleaders as kept collection boxes for the Swaraj fund, as well as to draw up history sheets of Congress volunteers?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that these meetings are secret, and that the proceedings of these meetings are circulated to the Subdivisional Officers of the district for action?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that Mr. Townend, the Additional Magistrate, and Babu Benode Behary Das Gupta, Deputy Magistrate, who are members of that Council, have tried political cases against Congress volunteers and others charged with offences connected with the non-co-operation movement?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether this Council of Action is a Government organization, or is in any manner supported by the Government?

(*f*) Do the Government propose to take any action in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) A Committee was convened during the violent and dangerous period of the non-co-operation

agitation in September last year to suggest measures to control the movement. It consisted of the principal officials and non-officials.

(*b*) Government have not seen the proceedings of the Committee, but are aware that some suggestions to this effect were made.

(*c*) The meetings were confidential and notes were circulated to members and others concerned.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The Committee was convened entirely on the initiative of the District Magistrate. It has now ceased to function.

(*f*) No

### Shalangahat Magisterial inquiry.

***LXXXII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the answers given on the 5th July, 1922, to clauses (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*e*) and (*h*), of unstarred question No. 96, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is not a fact that the magisterial inquiry regarding the Shalangahat shooting incident was held by Rai R. M. Das Bahadur, the District Magistrate of Pabna;

(*ii*) whether it is not a fact that the Magistrate holding the inquiry was the same Magistrate who ordered the shooting at Shalangahat;

(*iii*) on whose report the Government Resolution No. 4599 P., dated the 14th March, 1922, regarding the Shalangahat shooting incident was drafted and printed in the *Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette* of the 22nd March; and

(*iv*) under what rules or authorities are the Magistrates allowed to hold inquiries or to sit in judgment over their own actions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the sources other than that of the District Magistrate on which the Government Resolution No. 4599 P., regarding the Shalangahat shooting incident was based?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The report of the inquiring officer, Rai R. M. Das Bahadur, with the comments of the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division.

(*iv*) The standing orders provide that the District Magistrate or a senior Magistrate shall hold a prompt and full inquiry into the circumstances of any occurrence where the police have occasion to use firearms. As the District Magistrate in this case was on the spot he made the inquiry himself.

(*b*) The report of the Commissioner and the evidence recorded during the inquiry.

**Supervision of subordinate courts by High Court.**

***LXXXIII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the nature of the supervision the Hon'ble High Court exercises over the subordinate judiciary?

(*b*) Did any Hon'ble Judge of the High Court visit any of the districts in the year 1920-21?

(*c*) If so, which of the districts did he visit?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when the courts of the district of Bakarganj were last inspected?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) Attention is drawn to section 107 of the Government of India Act.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) The Government understand that no judge could be spared for the work.

(*e*) The civil courts of the district of Bakarganj were last inspected in January, 1908, by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brett.

**Political prisoners treated as special class prisoners.**

***LXXXIV. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether any, and if so, how many political prisoners have been treated as first or second class misdemeanants or in the same way as European prisoners as recommended in the resolution passed by the Bengal Legislative Council?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of such prisoners, indicating the jail or jails in which they are now undergoing imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) From the 1st January to the 31st May, 1922, 3,635 prisoners convicted for offences in connection with the non-co-operation movement were treated as special class prisoners in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Government order on the Resolution, a copy of which was hung up in the lobby.

(*b*) The time and trouble which the collection of this information would entail is incommensurate with its value.

agitation in September last year to suggest measures to control the movement. It consisted of the principal officials and non-officials.

(*b*) Government have not seen the proceedings of the Committee, but are aware that some suggestions to this effect were made.

(*c*) The meetings were confidential and notes were circulated to members and others concerned.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The Committee was convened entirely on the initiative of the District Magistrate. It has now ceased to function.

(*f*) No

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(*ii*) whether it is not a fact that the Magistrate holding the inquiry was the same Magistrate who ordered the shooting at Shalangahat;

(*iii*) on whose report the Government Resolution No. 4599 P., dated the 14th March, 1922, regarding the Shalangahat shooting incident was drafted and printed in the *Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette* of the 22nd March; and

(*iv*) under what rules or authorities are the Magistrates allowed to hold inquiries or to sit in judgment over their own actions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the sources other than that of the District Magistrate on which the Government Resolution No. 4599 P., regarding the Shalangahat shooting incident was based?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The report of the inquiring officer, Rai R. M. Das Bahadur, with the comments of the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division.

(*iv*) The standing orders provide that the District Magistrate or a senior Magistrate shall hold a prompt and full inquiry into the circumstances of any occurrence where the police have occasion to use firearms. As the District Magistrate in this case was on the spot he made the inquiry himself.

(*b*) The report of the Commissioner and the evidence recorded during the inquiry.

**Supervision of subordinate courts by High Court.**

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(*b*) Did any Hon'ble Judge of the High Court visit any of the districts in the year 1920-21?

(*c*) If so, which of the districts did he visit?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when the courts of the district of Bakarganj were last inspected?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim):** (*a*) Attention is drawn to section 107 of the Government of India Act.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) The Government understand that no judge could be spared for the work.

(*e*) The civil courts of the district of Bakarganj were last inspected in January, 1908, by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brett.

**Political prisoners treated as special class prisoners.**

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(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of such prisoners, indicating the jail or jails in which they are now undergoing imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) From the 1st January to the 31st May, 1922, 3,635 prisoners convicted for offences in connection with the non-co-operation movement were treated as special class prisoners in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Government order on the Resolution, a copy of which was hung up in the lobby.

(*b*) The time and trouble which the collection of this information would entail is incommensurate with its value.

**Acting arrangements in higher police service in Calcutta and Bengal.**

*LXXXV. **Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the Deputy Superintendents of Police can act for the Superintendents in the Bengal Police for any length of time; and

(*ii*) the Assistant Commissioners of Police in the town of Calcutta cannot act for a Deputy Commissioner for a period exceeding four months at a time?

(*b*) If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson):** (*a*) (*i*) No limit has been prescribed.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) In practice there is no differential treatment, since (apart from actual listed posts) Deputy Superintendents normally act only in purely temporary vacancies in the Bengal Police.

**Arrangement of interviews of special class prisoners in Alipore Central Jail.**

*LXXXVI. **Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the reasons for the recent departure made by the present Jail Superintendent of Alipore Central Jail in the case of ordinary special class prisoners like Mr. Sasmal, Mr. J. L. Banarji, Maulvi Azad and others in causing them to have interviews in what is regarded as a cage?

(*b*) Is it a fact that *pardanashin* ladies, like the wife of Hakim Masihur Rahman, are unable to interview their relatives in such a cage?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Prior to the 24th April, 1922, the provisions of Chapter XVII of the Jail Code were not strictly observed in the case of interviews with special class prisoners. This was irregular and facilitated the secret transfer of unauthorized articles in and out of jail. The irregularity was accordingly stopped. The so-called "cage" is the official interview room of the jail constructed in accordance with the provisions of rule 676 of the Code.

(*b*) Government are informed that some *pardanashin* ladies have had interviews in the interview room. They have no information regarding the lady mentioned.

**Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the "so-called cage" was not constructed in accordance with the rules of the Jail Code?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I am aware that the "cage" has only one set of bars and wire-netting instead of two in accordance with the Jail Code.

### Receipt of presents by Magistrates.

***LXXXVII. Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether Magistrates are allowed to receive presents from the public?

(*b*) Is there any restriction on this point?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) and (*b*) Magistrates are not allowed to receive presents from the public, except complimentary presents of flowers or fruit or similar articles of trifling value.

### Proscription of play contained in "Pataramer Swadeshita."

***LXXXVIII. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that before any Bengali drama is staged in a public theatre in Calcutta it has got to be submitted to the Commissioner of Police and the Government for scrutiny and approval;

(*ii*) whether this procedure was followed in the case of a book known as *Pataramer Swadeshita*;

(*iii*) whether the book was proscribed after it had been allowed to be staged by the Minerva Theatre for several nights; and

(*iv*) if so, on whose report was it proscribed?

(*b*) What are the objectionable passages or portions in the book for which its further performance has been prohibited?

(*c*) What is the name of the officer in the Police Department who had originally scrutinised this book and approved it for performance in the form in which it had been put on the stage by the Minerva Theatre for several nights?

(*d*) Would there be any objection to the reconsideration of the orders on the book if it is recast after objectionable passages or portions therein have been eliminated?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) On the report of the Commissioner of Police.

(*b*) The text of the book is in itself not objectionable, but the manner of its presentation as a play was designed to exploit particular political

propaganda and to excite political passions antagonistic to Government and law and order.

(*c*) The play was originally passed by Government.

(*d*) No alteration of passages or portions would affect the objections to the manner of presentation.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** If the manner of presentation is changed, will the Government withdraw the proscription?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** Unfortunately the manner of presentation is such that it is almost impossible to present the play in any other way without exciting political passions antagonistic to Government.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I take it that the book itself is not objectionable?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The answer is already given.

### Braja Mohan College, Barisal.

***LXXXIX. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education been drawn to the fact that the Braja Mohan Collegiate School (Braja Mohan Institution) at Barisal was converted into a "National School" by the proprietors more than a year ago?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister been also drawn to the fact that a notice for starting a "National College" has been issued by one of the proprietors?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state how these steps on the part of the proprietors, who have got three representatives on the Council of the Braja Mohan College which is subsidised by the Government and is an aided institution, have affected the College?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Such notices have been issued by the non-co-operators of the district, and a promise appears to have been made that the college will be started if 50 students join.

(*c*) It is reported that the college has been little affected by the presence on the Council of these three gentlemen. The number of students is reported to be larger than ever, and some applications have had to be refused.

**Right of asking questions and moving resolutions in local bodies.**

***XC. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the members of local and district boards and the Municipal Commissioners have the right to interpellate their Chairman or move resolutions at meetings of the boards or municipalities?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, under what law, rule or notification can they do so?

(*c*) If the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the law or rules or notifications or orders under which they are so barred?

(*d*) Under what statutory or other authority have the Municipal Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation got the right of interpellation?

**SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Goode):** (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative so far as the question relates to motions at meetings. The Municipal Commissioners have the right to interpellate their Chairman where rule 11A of the Model Rules of Business is in force. No such rule is in force as regards local and district boards.

(*b*) Under rules 3 and 12 and 9 and 17 of the Model Rules of Business for Municipalities and district and local boards respectively.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) Under rule 12 of Rules of Business as passed by the Corporation at their meeting held on 22nd May, 1889.

**Unstarred Questions**

**(answers to which were laid on the table).**

**"Id-ul-Fitr" holidays for Muhammadan Jail prisoners.**

**199. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of granting the Muhammadan jail prisoners two days' holidays instead of the one day usually allowed for *Id-ul-Fitr*?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The question as to the number of holidays to be granted to prisoners in jails on account of Hindu and Muhammadan festivals is under the consideration of Government. A half-holiday on account of the *Id-ul-Fitr* was granted for the first time this year to the prisoners in the jails in this Presidency.

### Fish Market Fund of the Calcutta University.

**200. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what is the amount held on account of the fund ordinarily known as the Fish Market Fund?

(*b*) What was the income and expenditure on account of that fund during the years 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21 and 1921-22?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** A copy of a letter, No. A. 92, dated the 19th August, 1922, from the Registrar, Calcutta University, giving the information, is laid on the Library table.

### Statement of Inspector-General of Prisons as to future treatment of special class prisoners.

**201. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that "the Government are making the jail discipline with regard to political prisoners more and more stringent and the Jail Rules are to be more tightened soon"?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons made a statement to this effect when he visited Barisal and that some representatives of the local Bar Association went to see him on the steamer?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, what are the reasons for such steps being taken on the part of the Government and in what directions are the Jail Rules being more tightened?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons observed, in course of the interview stated above, that "with the possible exception of Mr. C. R. Das and Wajid Ali Khan Panee, none of the political prisoners was fit to be treated as special class prisoners?

(*e*) If so, what are the reasons for such a statement?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) No. These words have been attributed to the Inspector-General, but, as explained below, they were not used by him. A revision of the rules for the treatment of special class prisoners is now under the consideration of Government, but the revised rules have not yet been finally approved.

(*b*) No. He was asked if the rules could not be made easier and, in reply, he said that it seemed to him that they ought to be tightened.

(*c*) The member is referred to the answer to clause (*a*) above.

(*d*) No. He made a statement to the effect that in England only such men as Mr. C. R. Das and Wajid Ali Khan Panee would be placed in the 1st Division.

(*e*) This does not arise.

**Penal diet to under-trial prisoners in Barisal Jail.**

**202. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Chinta Haran Gupta and some other under-trial non-co-operator prisoners were kept on "penal diet" from the 30th April to the 3rd May, 1922, for refusing to stand up before the Additional Magistrate and Superintendent of Barisal Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of any rule or rules governing the conduct of under-trial prisoners in this respect?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state as to who passed the orders inflicting this punishment?

(*d*) What sort of a diet is meant by the phrase "penal diet" in the jail phraseology?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to rules 646 and 920 of the Jail Code.

(*c*) The Superintendent.

(*d*) Penal diet consists of 1 lb. flour, boiled as a porridge, with ½ chittack salt and given in two meals.

**Recruitment of Muhammadans to Government posts.**

**203. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is proposed to appoint a suitable number of qualified Muhammadans in the various posts for which the Council made financial provision at the last sitting?

(*b*) If so, are any definite steps being taken to ensure that Muhammadan claims may not be overlooked?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) and (*b*). Recruitment will be made in accordance with the ordinary policy of Government, which is well known, and consequently no further steps are necessary to ensure that Muhammadan claims will not be overlooked.

**Building grants for schools in Pabna and Bogra.**

**204. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on

she table a statement showing separately for the last three years for the schools in the districts of Pabna and Bogra—

(*i*) the number of applications received for capital grants for building purposes;

(*ii*) the number of applications granted; and

(*iii*) what sums were granted?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 204.*

| | Pabna | | | Bogra. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1919-20. | 1920-21. | 1921-22. | 1919-20. | 1920-21. | 1921-22. | |
| (*i*) Number of applications received for capital grants for building purposes. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| (*ii*) Number of applications granted. | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| | Rs. | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs | Rs. | A. |
| (*iii*) Sums which were granted. | 667 | ... | 23,599 | 5 100 | 2,035 | 9,179 | 4 |

## Management of the Calcutta University Institute.

**205. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Calcutta University Institute receives any financial aid from the Government?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, what is the amount granted to it, and is such grant made in a lump sum annually?

(*c*) Do the Government exercise any control over the management of the Institute?

(*d*) If so, what is the precise nature of the control exercised?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling of discontent among the student community in not having any voice in, or control over, the management of the said Institute?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to transfer the control of the Institute to the student community or, in the alternative, to give them some share in its management?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 200 per mensem, paid monthly.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

(*e*) The Government have no information beyond the assertion that the present constitution of the University Institute has not been working satisfactorily.

(*f*) If Government be satisfied about the assertion contained in clause (*e*) of the question, Government will be prepared to consider the matter.

## Calcutta University Institute.

**206. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Calcutta University Institute receives any financial help from the Government?

(*b*) Have the Government any control in the affairs of its management?

(*c*) If so, do the Government propose to transfer their control to the student community?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware of a feeling of discontent in the student community because they have no effective voice in the management of the Institute?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** The member is referred to the reply given to another unstarred question on this subject put by him at this meeting.

## Shalangahat shooting.

**207. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) With reference to my unstarred question No. 96 answered in the July session of the Council, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state with reference to the answer to clause (*g*) of that question the names of the shop-keepers who made verbal complaints; also when and to whom such complaints were made? Was any note made of such complaints by the officers concerned and reported to their higher officers in writing?

(*b*) With reference to the answer to clause (*d*) of that question, what was the distance of the cattle market from the place of firing?

(*c*) With reference to the answer to clause (*f*) of that question, is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the day on which shooting took place, was *hât* day, and that the men assaulted did not come there either for the purposes of rioting or for attending any meeting?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why were cases under sections 147 and 353, Indian Penal Code, in contemplation against these wounded men?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the results of the investigation of the contemplated cases under sections 147 and 353, Indian Penal Code, against the wounded persons lying in the Serajganj hospital and state the reasons for not instituting the proceedings contemplated?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons why the local officers came to the conclusion that in the case of the wounded persons lying in the Serajganj hospital for treatment "there was a possibility of their escape"?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) The verbal complaints were made to the District Magistrate himself as he passed through the *hât*. These were not reduced to writing. Information is not available as to the names of the persons who made the complaints.

(*b*) 45 cubits.

(*c*) The day was a *hât* day. Government have no information as to what the intentions of the wounded men were in coming to the *hât*.

(*d*) Cases were instituted, inasmuch as the men were implicated in a riot.

(*e*) The cases were dropped owing to the difficulty of identification.

(*f*) Presumably because there was a possibility of their leaving the hospital and disappearing

### Subdivisional Officers partaking of the hospitality of influential persons in the mufassal.

**208. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether any steps were taken on the resolution moved by me on the 3rd March last in regard to the issue of special orders to Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates regarding Subdivisional Officers, etc, partaking of the hospitality, etc., of influential persons in the mufassal?

(*b*) If so, what was the action taken?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The proceedings have been communicated to the officers concerned, in accordance with the undertaking given by Government in the course of the debate.

**Whipping of political prisoners in Barisal Jail.**

**209. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether he is aware that several young political prisoners of Barisal Jail have recently been flogged?

(*b*) Was there any inquiry made into this matter of flogging?

(*c*) If so, what is the report of the inquiry and what action has been taken on the report?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes. For details the member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. LXXI put by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray on the 30th August, 1922.

(*b*) Full particulars of each case were forwarded to Government before the punishment was authorised.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

**Realisation of settlement cost from owners of non-agricultural and non-horticultural lands in Nadia district.**

**210. Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the cost of the preparation of the records-of-rights under Chapter X will be recovered from the owners and occupiers of non-agricultural and non-horticultural lands in the Nadia district?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether any distinction will be made in respect of such holdings which lie within or outside a municipal area?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there are High Court rulings to the effect that non-agricultural and non-horticultural lands do not come within the purview of Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay copies of these rulings on the table?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan):** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government are not aware of any rulings to this effect; there are rulings to the effect that rents cannot be settled under section 105 for non-agricultural lands, *vide* C. W. N., Vol. XIX, page 35, and C. W. N., Vol. XXII, page cxvi.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

**Alleged censorship of telegrams at Barisal.**

**211. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state how many telegrams to the press have not been issued by the Barisal telegraph office during the last two years—

(*i*) on the ground of their being politically objectionable; and

(*ii*) on any other ground?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that the messages have within a short time appeared in the papers?

(*c*) If so, what reasons do the Government assign for the action of the telegraph office?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of restricting the censorship of the Barisal telegraph office?

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** The local Government have issued no order under section 5 (*b*) of the Indian Telegraph Act, and have no information regarding any special censorship of telegrams at Barisal. A general censorship is permitted by section 374 of the Post and Telegraph Guide. As, however, telegraph offices are under the administrative control of the Central Government, the local Government have not the information asked for in (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of the question nor have they the authority to interfere as suggested in (*d*).

**Political prisoners arrested or convicted for employing methods of assassination.**

**212. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state how many of the political prisoners now in jail, were arrested and convicted for employing methods of assassination?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** There are seven prisoners convicted of murder, attempted murder and dacoity with murder in connection with political movements and three convicted of waging war.

**Muhammadans in the office of the Bengali Translator.**

**213. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of vacancies, both permanent and temporary, which occurred in the office of the Bengali Translator to the Government of Bengal from the 1st April, 1912, to the 31st March, 1922;

(*ii*) the names of the candidates who were appointed to the vacancies with their educational qualifications;

(*iii*) the dates of the advertisements, if any, calling for candidates for the vacancies; and

(*iv*) the total number of translators, assistants and typists in the said office, together with their respective pay and religion as Hindu or Muhammadan?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating the appointment of Muhammadans to fill up the posts for which a demand of Rs. 3,325 has been voted by the Bengal Legislative Council in its last July session, to bring the proportion of Muhammadans in that office to one-third of its total strength?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) An effort will be made to find qualified Muhammadans for the new posts.

### Extension of service to Rai R. M. Das Bahadur.

**214. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Rai R. M. Das Bahadur, the District Magistrate of Pabna, is about to retire?

(*b*) If so, when is he due to retire?

(*c*) Did he submit any petition for an extension of service between January and June, 1922?

(*d*) If so, when did he submit such a petition?

(*e*) What was the order passed on the petition?

(*f*) Did he get any extension before?

(*g*) If so, for how long was he granted extension before and when will that period end?

(*h*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence which passed between the Government and the said District Magistrate regarding his extension?

(*i*) If he has not been granted any extension this time, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why his prayer for another extension has been refused?

(*j*) Has the refusal got anything to do with the Salanga shooting affairs?

(*k*) Has his successor been nominated?

(*l*) If so, what is his name and when is he likely to assume his new office?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He was due to retire on the 17th August, 1922, the date on which he attained the age of 55 years.

(*c*) and (*d*) In September, 1921, he submitted an application for an extension of service.

(*e*) An extension of six months has been granted.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Does not arise.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) and (*j*) Do not arise.

(*k*) No.

(*l*) Does not arise.

### Pay drawn by Ministers.

**215. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state the amounts drawn by each of the three Ministers under the following heads from the 1st January, 1921, to the 31st July, 1922, month by month, as—

(*i*) pay,

(*ii*) travelling allowances,

(*iii*) residential allowance,

(*iv*) hill allowance, and

(*v*) other allowance or allowances, if any.

**MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr):** Each of the Ministers has drawn pay since the 3rd January, 1921, at the rate of Rs. 5,333-5-4. They draw no allowances.

### Model primary schools in Pabna district.

**216. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether any grant for starting model primary schools within the Pabna and Serajganj municipalities in the district of Pabna on the lines sketched out in Mr. Biss's report have as yet been made?

(*b*) If not, is it the intention to start such schools during the year 1922-23?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) No.

(*b*) A scheme has been prepared for starting four centralised primary schools each for 100 boys in Pabna at a capital cost of Rs. 13,400 and a recurring cost of Rs. 4,200 per annum. A scheme on similar lines has been prepared for Serajganj. If the Municipal Commissioners agree to pay half the capital and half the recurring cost, both the schemes will be taken up.

### Tangail Bindubashini School.

**217. Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware of the financial difficulty with which the Tangail Bindubashini School is confronted?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of increasing the grant-in-aid by a sum equivalent to the amount by which the original grant to the said institution was cut down?

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** (*a*) and (*b*) The matter has only recently been brought to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction, and steps will be taken immediately for an inquiry into the position of the school.

### Milk supply.

**218. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what special steps have been taken by the local authorities and the Government, respectively, for increasing the supply of pure cow's milk and development of agriculture in Bengal?

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea):** (*i*) As regards the supply of pure milk the main problem is the improvement of the breed of cattle and the milk-yielding capacity of cows. At the Rangpur cattle farm experiments on the process of selection from among indigenous cattle and in cross-breeding are being tried. The herd is divided into two sections. In the one, selected local cows breed from a Hissar bull and in the other from the best local bulls available. The milk-yield of each cow is carefully recorded and those which give a poor yield are eliminated from the herd. With the object of studying local conditions of the districts, it has been decided to have a cattle-breeding section in each district farm, as funds permit. Meanwhile selected bulls have been stationed at a number of these farms for breeding purposes. Proposals are also under consideration for the recruitment of an expert in cattle-breeding. Intimately connected with the problem of cattle improvement is dairy farming. This is engaging the

attention of the Agricultural Department. The Co-operative Department have organised a number of milk societies and one co-operative dairy and bank for the supply of milk.

As to the steps taken by Government for the development of agriculture in this Presidency, the member is referred to the annual reports of the Agricultural Department and to the departmental bulletins published from time to time.

(*ii*) Local bodies have as yet not taken adequate measures for increasing the supply of milk and ensuring its purity. They require increased powers and the Calcutta Municipal Bill and the new Bengal Municipal Bill make adequate statutory provision for such measures. A reference is also invited to—

(*1*) the reply given in Council on the 29th August, 1921, to a similar question asked by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and

(*2*) the reply given to Maulvi Fazlal Karim's Council question regarding the maintenance of stud-bulls by District Boards. These bodies at present spend Rs. 1¼ lakhs per annum on stud-bulls and veterinary work.

## Kasba Munsifi.

**219. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state how many villages are there under the Kasba munsifi and what is the total area of those villages?

(*b*) What is the total number of the annual suits instituted in that munsifi during the last 7 years and what is the number of suits for the last financial year?

(*c*) What is the income and the expense of the said munsifi in the last year on account of the suits instituted?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the officers and clerks, etc., attached to the Kasba munsifi are being changed frequently?

(*e*) If the answer to clause (*d*) be in the affirmative, what is the number of officers and clerks transferred, and in what posts were they and what was the reason of their transfer?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of transferring this munsifi to some other suitable and healthy place? If so, where is the place and what would be the probable expenditure?

(*g*) If the answer to clause (*f*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of arranging for the trial of suits of the Kasba munsifi, at Comilla sadar? If so, what would be the probable expense of taking this step?

(*h*) If the answer to clause(*g*) be in the negative, will he be pleased to state why this cannot be done?

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** (*a*) 205 villages, 148 square miles.

(*b*) The number of suits instituted in the Kasba munsifi during the last 7 years from 1914 to 1920 is, respectively, 3,223, 3,156, 3,713, 5,692, 3,961, 3,261 and 3,311. The figures are available in the reports on the administration of civil justice in the Presidency of Bengal for the respective years. The figure for 1921 is not available.

(*c*) Receipts.—Rs. 42,024; Expenditure—Rs. 19,238; Balance—Rs. 22,786.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*f*) Yes. It is proposed when funds are available to remove the munsifi to Brahmanbaria. The estimate has not yet been prepared

(*g*) and (*h*) Do not arise.

### Publication and sale of papers of local bodies.

**220. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the agenda paper of the meeting of the union boards, local boards, district boards and the municipalities are not supplied to the Press or are not made available to the public who desire to have them?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that many misunderstandings arise and misrepresentations take place both among the public, and in the Press, owing to the closed character of the meetings of these local bodies, by the withholding of their proceedings from the Press and the public, and by the exclusion of visitors from their meetings?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to say whether the Government are considering the desirability of issuing early instructions to all statutory local bodies in the Presidency to supply copies of their proceedings to the local press and make them available to those who like to buy them?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. The attention of the member is drawn in this connection to rule 75 of the rules for proceedings at meetings of district and local boards, rule 39 of Model Rules of Business for municipalities, and rule 29 of the Rules of Business for Union Boards.

**Recruitment to Bengal Civil Service from certain districts of Burdwan Division.**

**221. Babu SARAT CHANDRA JANAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of recruitments during the last five years in the Bengal Provincial, Judicial and Executive Services from the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore; and

(*ii*) the number of candidates from each of these districts during the same period?

(*b*) Is it the ordinary rule that a candidate for the Provincial Judicial Service has to be enrolled before he completes 27 years of age and has to complete three years practice at the Bar before such enrolment?

(*c*) Has there been any departure from the rule in any case within the last five years?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in a tabular form the names of the officers enrolled and the names of their father with their designations?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table. For the Executive Service information as to the number of candidates is not available.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) Government have no information on the point. Enrolment is made by the High Court.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 221(a), showing the number of recruits for the Bengal Civil Service (Executive and Judicial) from the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore and the number of candidates enrolled for the Judicial Branch of the same Service during 1917—21.*

| | Executive. | Judicial. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of appointments. | Number of appointments. | Number of candidates enrolled. |
| Bankura— | | | |
| 1917 ... ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 1918 ... ... | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 1919 ... ... | .. | 2 | 2 |
| 1920 ... ... | ... | 1 | 3 |
| 1921 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Birbhum— | | | |
| 1917 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1918 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1919 ... ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 1920 ... ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 1921 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |

| | Executive. | Judicial. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Appointments. | Number of Appointments. | Number of candidates enrolled. |
| Burdwan— | | | |
| 1917 ... ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 1918 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1919 ... ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 1920 ... ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| 1921 ... ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Midnapore— | | | |
| 1917 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1918 ... ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1919 ... ... | ... | .. | 1 |
| 1920 ... ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 1921 ... ... | ... | ... | 1 |

## Pay of Deputy Superintendents of Police.

**222. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether the increased rate of pay of Deputy Superintendents of Police was sanctioned long ago?

(*b*) Is it a fact that they are not allowed to draw the increased pay?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a list of those Deputy Superintendents of Police who have not drawn the increased pay?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why the payment at the increased rate has been delayed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government are not aware of any such cases.

(*d*) The question does not arise.

## Bakarganj Cattle.

**223. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the district boards which maintain stud-bulls for the improvement of the breed of cattle; and

(*ii*) the number of such bulls maintained separately for each district and local board areas?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the cattle of Bakarganj are inferior to the cattle of other districts of Bengal?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the District Board of Bakarganj to maintain at least one stud-bull for each thana and of making a grant to the District Board to meet the expenditure?

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The Veterinary Adviser to Government reports as follows:—

"From Mr. Blackwood's cattle census report it will be seen that the cattle of Bakarganj district are numerous. They rank among the worst cattle in Bengal. They are small, and their condition is poor. This is due to two main causes—

(*1*) The nature of the district, which is flooded all the monsoon when no grazing is available. During the rest of the year the grazing is very poor and scanty.

(*2*) The owners seem totally indifferent to their cattle, and will not do what might be done, to care for and feed their animals."

(*c*) The District Board has statutory powers to make such provision and Government do not propose to interfere.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 223, showing the number of stud-bulls maintained by District Boards.*

| Name of the District Board. | Number of stud-bulls. | REMARKS. |
|---|---|---|
| Burdwan ... | Nil. | The District Board propose to purchase three. |
| Birbhum ... | 2 | ..... |
| Midnapore ... | 7 | Three at Sadar, two at Ghatal and two at Contai |
| Howrah ... | Nil. | The Board have sanctioned the purchase of one for Cluberia. |
| Khulna ... | 3 | One in each subdivision. |
| Mymensingh ... | 2 | Both are kept at Sadar Veterinary Hospital |
| Bakarganj ... | 7 | Four at Barisal under the direct supervision of the District Board and one at each of the three subdivisions under the supervision of the respective Local Boards. |
| Dinajpur ... | 1 | ..... |
| Rangpur ... | 4 | Three at Sadar and one at Gaibandha. |
| Pabna ... | 2 | Both are kept in rural areas under the supervision of the Veterinary Assistant. |
| Malda ... | 1 | ..... |
| Jalpaiguri ... | 2 | Both are kept at the Sadar Veterinary Hospital. |
| Darjeeling ... | 9 | Six for the Kurseong Sadar Local Board area and three for the Kalimpong Local Board area |
| Tippera ... | 1 | For the Sadar Subdivision only. The purchase of another for the Sadar area has been sanctioned. |
| Noakhali ... | 5 | Three for Sadar and two for Feni. |

NOTE.—No stud-bulls are maintained by any other District Board
None of the Local Boards except those in the district of Darjeeling maintain stud-bulls separately.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Before we proceed with to-day's business, I should like to bring to your notice one fact. On a perusal of the official report of the proceedings of this Council, for the last July session, I find it recorded on page 573, with regard to one of my speeches, the following:—

"The member said something, which was inaudible at the reporters' table."

I think that my voice was rather too loud, and so cannot understand how it could be inaudible. However, as my speech was in the nature of a personal explanation, I think it should not be allowed to go unrecorded. When I opposed the grant for a new Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali said that I had congratulated Lord Ronaldshay last year by saying that the scheme of appointing Assistant Registrars was a very excellent one. In my personal explanation, I said that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, with all his knowledge, did not seem to know that I had said nothing of the kind. I had only congratulated Lord Ronaldshay for helping towards the permanence of the Co-operative Department. I hope, Sir, that this will be duly recorded.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Very well.

## Supplementary Budget for the year 1922-23.

### Demands for Grants.

### 34.—Agriculture.

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** I move that a sum of Rs. 44,548 be granted for expenditure under the head "34.—Agriculture." The item for which the money is required represent a further instalment of the proposals which have been considered and worked out during the past year and a half. I shall refer briefly to the more important items. First, there is the training of an officer of the Provincial Veterinary Service to qualify him for promotion to the Imperial Service. It has long been a grievance that no provision for such training existed and that the promotion of deserving officers of the Provincial Service was impossible. The Government of India have now arranged for a course of training and it has been decided to give an able officer of the Bengal Provincial Service this opportunity of qualifying himself for the Imperial Service. Then there is a provision for sending four students to receive an agricultural training at Cawnpore, which has been selected as the most suitable place in view of the closing of Sabour in the near future. Until the Agricultural Institute at Dacca is ready, this is the only means of training

Bengali youths for the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Then we are asking for a special officer for six months to prosecute to a conclusion Mr. Annett's investigations into the date-sugar industry as recommended by the Indian Sugar Committee.

The work of the experts in the Dacca Laboratory is greatly handicapped by an insufficient supply of gas, and we propose to increase the supply. The proposal is economically sound because with the increased supply, the officers will be able to give us an increased output of work.

Lastly, I have asked for money for an increase in the staff of the Co-operative Department and in the pay of the auditors. The increase in staff is rendered unavoidable by the rapid expansion of the co-operative movement. Government have assumed a certain responsibility for the control and guidance of the movement. I think it will be generally admitted that that control is necessary. If it is to be maintained at all, it must be effective; and the increase for which I ask is the minimum with which Government can discharge this responsibility. Up to now the Inspectors have had to do much audit work, to the detriment of their proper duties such as propaganda and inspection. I propose to appoint sufficient auditors to do the audit work and leave the Inspectors free for their own duties. The cost of 60 out of the 69 auditors will be met from fees levied on the societies. At the same time it is proposed to sanction an increase of pay for these officers. Their present pay is wholly insufficient for the class of men required and for the ardous nature of their duties. It is therefore proposed to put them on a time-scale of Rs. 75 rising to Rs. 150 by annual increments of Rs. 3.

Finally, there is the appointment of a Fifth Deputy Director of Agriculture. We have been waiting for this officer for a long time. It is six years since the Government of India suggested to us the desirability of such an officer. As, however, we have waited so long already, I have decided, in view of the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee, to wait until their report is received. I therefore ask for a total grant of Rs. 44,548 instead of Rs. 45,948.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether the proposal for the appointment of a Fifth Deputy Director of Agriculture is dropped?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Yes, it is postponed till the report of the Retrenchment Committee is out.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 1,320 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 6" be refused.

I beg to oppose this grant, because it seems to me that it is absolutely unnecessary. When the Sabour Agricultural College was in high favour, we used to grant scholarships to students for studying at

that college, but it was left to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture for Bihar and Orissa to find out that the education given at that college was absolutely worthless; so, that college has been abolished. Now we are trying to send out students to Cawnpore, and I suppose it will not be long, before another Hon'ble the Minister of the United Provinces finds that the results of the Cawnpore Agricultural College are also useless. The fact is, that the training that our students receive in these agricultural colleges does not stand them in good stead for the development of agriculture in this province. Therefore, it seems to me absolutely unnecessary to provide scholarships for students at these agricultural colleges. My other argument is at that there are many such colleges in Poona, Nagpur and other places, where agricultural students go from Bengal for study, on their own initiative and at their own expense. When appointments are made, these candidates may be easily available. It is not as if no students went out from Bengal to study in those colleges at their own expense. Then, why should Government pay these scholarships? We also know that an Agricultural College is shortly going to be opened at Dacca. So I do not think there is any necessity for Government granting these scholarships now. I therefore move that the demand be refused.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** This item provides for the training of four students in the Agricultural College at Lucknow. In the absence of an Agricultural College in this province, Government have, in the past, been in the habit of sending stipendaries to Sabour and such of the stipendaries as passed through the course have found employment in the Subordinate Agricultural Service. We have now received notice of the early closing of Sabour, and it has become necessary to make other arrangements for the training of our students. Accordingly we decided to send them to Cawnpore where we were informed that four places could be reserved for students from Bengal. In the last few days, however, we have been informed that only two students can be admitted. This is a serious matter and draws attention to the necessity for proceeding with the Agricultural Institute at Dacca. It is our only source for recruitment for the Subordinate Agricultural Service, and the progress of that department will be seriously hampered if we are unable to obtain the number of recruits we require. In the circumstances I am willing to agree to the reduction of the demand from Rs. 1,320 to Rs. 660 and I trust the Council will vote this small sum to enable us to train two young men in agriculture for recruitment to the Subordinate Agricultural Service.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** In view of the fact that the demand has been reduced by half, and that the Dacca Agricultural

College is being pushed through, I beg leave to withdraw my motion for reduction.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion automatically fell through, as the demand referred to in it was not made by the Hon'ble the Minister:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,400 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 7' be refused."

**Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** I beg leave to withdraw the motion standing in my name which runs as follows:—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8' be refused."

I only want to know whether the demand in Scheme 8 for the establishment of two Deputy Directors of Agriculture will not be reduced, since the Hon'ble the Minister has decided not to appoint a Fifth Deputy Director of Agriculture at present. I think the establishment should be reduced at least by half.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I also suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that since the proposal for the appointment of a Fifth Deputy Director of Agriculture has been abandoned, the cost of establishment should also be reduced.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** As I have postponed the demand for a Fifth Deputy Director of Agriculture, the whole of the demand shown under item 8 provided for the establishment of two Deputy Directors will not be necessary. The provision for a Fourth Deputy Director was voted by the Council in the budget estimates for the current year. I hope that he will be appointed shortly and it is essential that he should have sufficient office establishment. I am willing, therefore, to reduce the demand under this item from Rs. 5,070 to the round figure of Rs. 2,500, it being understood that the staff and the rates of pay noted in the printed list of the demand will not be exceeded.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Although the Council sanctioned the post of the Fourth Deputy Director some time ago, it appears from the statement of the Hon'ble the Minister that the question of the appointment of the Deputy Director may come up before the Retrenchment Committee. We, of this section of the House, think that the necessity for the post of Deputy Director is not at all urgent. Though the post was sanctioned a year ago, the post has not yet been filled up, and the department has been going on merrily. So, I think, the taken up by the Retrenchment Committee. I hope, therefore, that the department can go on for three months more when the matter will be Hon'ble the Minister will be pleased to withdraw the demand for the whole establishment under the two Deputy Directors.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** I just understood that the Hon'ble the Minister had altogether withdrawn his proposal for the Fifth Deputy Director. If that be so, I have no longer any justification for moving the amendment which stands in my name; but I have not been able to follow whether that has been done. If the proposal has not been withdrawn altogether, I move that the demand for Rs. 1,400 be refused.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You are under a misapprehension. That motion has already been withdrawn. We are now discussing the motion that the demand of Rs. 5,070 under Scheme 8 be refused.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** Although this demand is for a modest sum of Rs. 5,070, it involves an annual recurring expenditure of about Rs. 13,000. It is a necessary appenage to the scheme which has now been dropped for the time being. Still I do not think that this Council should provide for these items. It is proposed to provide, for each newly-created Deputy Director, a staff consisting of one head clerk, one accountant, one routine clerk and one duftry and so on. But what will be the duty of these officers, I myself cannot understand. It has been said that these Deputy Directors will have no work except to supervise the work of others. If that be their duty, then they can have only a routine clerk and a peon. We should not, therefore, provide on such a lavish scale for their establishment.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I wish to offer my congratulations to the Hon'ble the Minister on his decision to withdraw the demand for the appointment of the Fifth Deputy Director ("Hear, hear"). This is as it should be. I take it that the Hon'ble the Minister has found that there is a strong feeling in this Council against all new appointments and particularly about this appointment in the Agricultural Department. It would have been something like the fifth wheel of a carriage, as one of my friends has remarked. So, I take it that in view of that fact, the Hon'ble the Minister has reduced the demand under Scheme 8 from Rs. 5,070 to Rs. 2,500 and I think that that is the demand which is now before the Council. In other words, the demand is for the establishment of the Fourth Deputy Director, whose post was voted by this Council some time ago. That vote having been passed, it necessarily follows that the establishment would also be provided. In that view of the matter, I wish to withdraw my objection to this demand.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** In view of what has fallen from the Hon'ble the Minister, I do not think I would be justified in pressing the amendment further. If I have understood aright, the establishment will not come into existence till the appointment of the Fourth Deputy Director is actually made. I believe he simply wants to have the grant sanctioned. Therefore, so far as I have understood the Hon'ble the

Minister, the position is that until the appointment of the Fourth Deputy Director is filled up, the establishment will not at all come into existence.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Yes; that is the position.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** If that be so, I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

**Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** "That the demand for Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8,' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

As the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, agreed to reduce the grant under this head to Rs. 2,500, the following motion fell through:—

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** "That the demand for Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8,' be reduced by half."

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** "That the demand for Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8,' be reduced by Rs. 2,032."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** "That the demand for Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8,' be reduced by Rs. 1,932."

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Does the Hon'ble the Minister intend to appoint the Fourth Deputy Director before the report of the Retrenchment Committee is out?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Yes.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** Then we must oppose the demand.

The following motion was then put and agreed to:—

"That the demand for Rs. 5,070 under head '34.—Agriculture—Scheme 8,' be reduced to Rs. 2,500."

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I move that the demand for Rs. 2,578 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 9," be refused."

My first objection is on the ground that it is a new appointment, and secondly, the duties of these officers will be to carry on investigation into the possibilities of improving the date-sugar industry of

Bengal. My own impression is that so far as these possibilities are concerned, they are so patent that no investigation will be necessary, and there will be so much money wasted. On this ground, therefore, I beg to oppose this demand. I know that this pay, although small, will be a permanent recurring charge on the revenues of the province.

**SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. A. L. Swan):** The appointment is only for six months.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** That is true, but it will be perpetuated. We find that an estimate of expenditure is also given. But there is nothing to show that although it is now for six months, it will not be continued. If it had been only for six months, I would not have pressed the amendment. For the present, however, without any information as to the period for which the officer is going to be appointed, I think I ought to press the amendment for the refusal of the grant.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** Without taking much time of the Council, I would simply support Maulvi Faz-ul Haq's amendment.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** For the last week, I have been surprised beyond measure at hearing gentlemen here say that we do not require any improvement in agriculture. I say that it takes my breath away (A voice: "Not entirely") and I wish that nobody here will repeat that statement. I hear to-day that there is no necessity for an officer to look into the question for the improvement of date-sugar. That is, indeed, a great surprise to me Are these gentlemen aware that date-sugar was at a time one of the greatest assets of Bengal? Are these gentlemen also aware that date-sugar may yet regain for us one of the greatest sources of the wealth of Bengal? These objections are against the best interests of my country and I therefore protest against them.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I think the Council must be aware of the importance of the date-sugar industry in Jessore. Important investigations into this industry were commenced by Mr. Annett, the Agricultural Chemist, in 1915, but before he could bring them to a conclusion he was transferred from this province, and since then the matter has been in abeyance. Meanwhile the Indian Sugar Committee have considered the matter. They are hopeful that the date-sugar industry can be improved and established on a prosperous basis. But as a preliminary measure they recommend that Mr. Annett's inquiries should be taken up again and prosecuted to a conclusion. For this purpose, a special officer for six months is required. In view of the important results that are expected, the expenditure is trifling, and I trust the Council will reject this motion.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I wish to say a few words in reply.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** You are not entitled to a reply.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** Very well; I wish to offer a personal explanation. I do not mind what the Hon'ble the Minister has said, but the Rai Bahadur insinuates that those who object to this grant are not aware of the importance of the date-sugar industry in Bengal. I may, however,——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Order! order! You are making a speech.

The motion was then put and lost.

**Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs 27,180 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11" be reduced to the extent of the provision for 5 additional inspectors and for 19 out of 30 additional auditors and for 24 of their peons.

I find that the proposal is to appoint 30 additional auditors, 5 additional inspectors and 35 peons, of which the cost of 60 auditors will be recouped from the audit fees to be realized from the co-operative societies. I object to the addition of this 30 additional auditors and 5 additional inspectors. I cannot understand what is the necessity of appointing these additional auditors and why all the pay for the auditors should not be realized from the co-operative societies. I therefore object to the additional auditors, inspectors and peons.

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ** moved that the demand for Rs. 27,180 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11" be reduced by Rs. 5,280.

He explained in Bengali the reasons for his proposal.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 27,180 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11," be reduced by Rs. 3,150, being the pay of 5 additional inspectors of the Co-operative Department.

A motion similar to the one which stands in my name has been moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. From the latest report on the work of the co-operative societies in Bengal, we find that till the last year there were only 40 auditors. Of course, there is a remark in the report to this effect that "with 40 auditors for over 6,000 societies, the proportion is obviously inadequate." Let us accept that statement; still we cannot understand why 60 auditors will not be quite sufficient for the purpose and why 9 more auditors will be required—that is my first point. The next point is this: Government, in asking for the appointing of 9 additional auditors, are going against an established principle. So far as we know, the principle that has been accepted till

now in regard to the appointment of auditors is that the cost should be recouped from the money realised from the co-operative societies. The strength of the staff was entirely dependent on the amount realised from the co-operative societies. That is the principle which has guided us till now. Does the Government mean to depart from this principle by appointing 9 more auditors? That is the second question. From the details of the cost as given in the Budget under discussion, we find that Government proposes to appoint 69 auditors in all and in the "Remarks" column the Government says that the cost of 60 auditors will be recouped from the audit fees to be realised from the co-operative societies under the Act. It is evident, therefore, that the pay of the 9 additional auditors will be paid from the provincial revenues and not from the fees to be realised from the co-operative societies. And hence I object to this part of the demand.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 27,180 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11," be reduced by Rs. 3,150, being the pay of 5 additional inspectors of the Co-operative Department.

Nowhere in the latest report on the working of co-operative societies is it mentioned that the present number of inspectors is inadequate. It is only stated that the number of auditors is quite inadequate; but it is not complained that the staff of inspectors is insufficient. On the other hand, one reason for increasing the number of auditors, as given by Government, is that the inspectors have got to do certain auditing duties. It is just to relieve them of those duties that the number of auditors is going to be increased. If that be the case, and if the inspectors after the appointment of additional auditors will be relieved of the audit work they have now got to perform, then we can do without appointing these 5 additional inspectors just now. At least we should wait and see, if after the appointment of additional auditors, mere inspection work will require more men or not.

With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 27,180 under head "34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11," be reduced by Rs. 100.

May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to the last sentence of his remarks which runs as follows:—"The cost of 60 auditors will be recouped from the audit fees realized from the Co-operative Societies under the Act." Evidently, the Hon'ble the Minister has in view the Retrenchment Committee and in view of that he has proposed a temporary establishment. That seems to be a reasonable way of looking at things. Are we going to pay this amount for all time to come, or is it to be regarded as an advance at the present moment and in course

of time this amount will be realized from the co-operative societies? I shall be greatly obliged if the Hon'ble the Minister will kindly explain the situation.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** The auditors will not cost the Government anything beyond their pay for 18 months and as long as they continue their work, their pay will be realized from the co-operative societies.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 27,180 under head " 34.—Agriculture—Scheme 11 " be reduced by Rs. 50.

The amount of reduction that I propose to make will convince the House that I have no objection to the appointment of new auditors and inspectors that has been proposed; but I have serious objection to the anomalous position that will be created by the proposed revision of the pay of auditors. From a reference to the note submitted with the proposal for this grant, we find that the auditors, who are inferior in service to the inspectors, have been given the scale of Rs. 75 to Rs. 150, whereas inspectors, who are superior in service to them, are to get Rs. 105 only. The natural consequence will be that after some years of service an auditor will get more pay than his superior officer, viz., the inspector. I do not understand how this anomalous position could be created by the Hon'ble the Minister. If it has been done by him, I must say that it is against the assurance that he gave to the inspectors that he would see that their pay was increased very soon. This assurance has been given several times by the Hon'ble the Minister to these inspectors. If he has gone behind that assurance, then I must say that it is deplorable. But, if it is the Finance Department that has forced his hands, then I must say that this interference of the Finance Department with a Transferred Department is most deplorable. Only at the last July session, we found that there was no objection on the part of the Finance Department to a certain revision of pay of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, who had been given an increase in 1919 and were again given a second increase in 1922. There was no objection to that. But, here, to-day, we find that in spite of repeated assurances to grant an increase to these Inspectors, the Finance Department presumably stops this increase on the ground that this matter might be looked into by the Retrenchment Committee. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson told us at the July session that unless we granted the demand, the matter could not go to the Retrenchment Committee. But, here, we see that quite the opposite argument is used. I do not know who is responsible for creating this anomalous position and I hope that the Hon'ble the Minister will kindly explain the situation.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED:** There are several motions for reduction of the grant under Scheme 11; but no materials

have been supplied on what calculations these reductions have been arrived at. Of course, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has said that there should be some reduction in the number of auditors who are going to be appointed, but he has not supplied us with any data and he has not shown by facts and figures how these 11 auditors will be able to cope with the auditing work of the societies instead of 30 as proposed by the Registrar. On the contrary, from the annual report, we find that there has been a considerable increase in the number of societies and the proposal put forward by the Hon'ble the Minister is quite reasonable. We have also to remember that Government will not ultimately pay the amount that is to be paid to the auditors, as this amount will be recouped from the societies that are to be audited. It is a patent fact that as the societies are getting old, some abuses are creeping into them; and in order to guard against these abuses, it is necessary that Government should have their accounts duly audited by these auditors. So, the demand herein put forward is quite justifiable and there is no ground whatsoever for its reduction.

I fully endorse the remarks made by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta that in the case of inspectors justice has really been denied to them. These people who have been serving in the department are educationally fit to become Sub-Deputy Collectors and are recruited from the same classes. There is absolutely no reason why these inspectors should be given a lower pay. The temporary remedy sought in their favour is highly justifiable. I should ask the Council to reject all these motions for reduction.

**Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur:** Having had the opportunity of working with the co-operative societies for some time, I think it my duty to support the grant which has been asked for, and I submit to the Council that it is highly necessary that these inspectors, additional inspectors, auditors and additional auditors should be appointed as suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister. One who takes the trouble of going through the accounts of the rural societies will find that it is highly necessary that there should be a man at the head to check these accounts. With the expansion of rural societies and the expansion of district co-operative banks, auditors have become a necessity. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said that the Hon'ble the Minister will kindly consider whether it is not necessary to increase the pay of the inspectors. I agree and as a member of the Council recommend to the Hon'ble the Minister to consider the suggestion favourably.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** I oppose all the motions here put down. Everybody who is acquainted with the work of the co-operative credit societies knows fully well that inspectors and auditors are essentially necessary.

To take the first motion, I find that though the department says that the cost of 60 auditors will be recouped from the audit fees realised from

the societies, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri will have the number reduced to 50. I do not think that this is reasonable. When the cost is to be met by the societies themselves I think that it is ridiculous to reduce the number of auditors. The other speakers have given no reasons whatsoever for their motions. I think that all these motions should be rejected.

**Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur:** I find that objection has been taken to the appointment of 5 additional inspectors and 9 auditors and to the inconsistency in the fixing up of the salaries of the inspectors and auditors. As regards the first item, I have every sympathy with my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. I do not quite understand why there should be any inconsistency like this. If this means an undesirable interference on the part of the Finance Department, the sooner it is stopped the better for the country.

Well, as regards the 5 additional inspectors, let me assure the hon'ble members of the House that there is a very great need for it. In fact, if I may be permitted to speak of my own district, Birbhum, we have got 84 different schemes ready and 84 societies for irrigation and similar purposes waiting to be registered. We cannot do it for want of technical knowledge on the part of the District Board staff. I have applied to the department for sending at least two inspectors to Birbhum at once. Similarly, I know Bankura wants help, and almost immediate help. There may be other districts which perhaps require the services of these inspectors at once. Consequently I think that the House will not hesitate to accept this proposal for the appointment of 5 additional inspectors.

As regards the 9 auditors as far as I know over and above the 60 auditors whose salaries will be realised from the different societies, there must be some auditors to do the departmental work. They are therefore necessary.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** As an attack has been made on the Finance Department, I may perhaps be allowed to say a few words in reply. I have no personal feeling in the matter at all, because I am accustomed to hear such accusations all day long. But the procedure which is laid down in the devolution rules does not seem to be understood by members of this House and unless they understand it, they will not be able to deal with financial questions properly. Under the devolution rules, the Finance Department has no power to block the proposal of any department, as has been alleged. All that the Finance Department can do is to insist that its financial objections to any scheme of a department shall be laid before Government as a whole. That function the Finance Department exercises impartially whether it applies to a Member or whether it applies to a Minister. Once the departmental objections have been considered by Government as a

whole, the Finance Department of course accepts the decision of Government and carries it out so far as finance is concerned. That is, I think, what happened in this particular case. I do not wish to go into the merits of this case because the Hon'ble the Minister will do that, but I do hope that the Council now understands what the functions of the Finance Department are and understands that it is no good criticising schemes in this Council on the ground that they have been blocked by the Finance Department.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** It is very disagreeable to say anything against the co-operative credit societies. I know of what great benefit they have proved in other countries, but I must say in Bengal—I know something of three districts— they have not proved of much benefit because of the ignorance of the cultivators. The Mahajan flourishes quite as lustily as before and more vigorously does he now, as a member of the co-operative society, enforce his loan by all the rigours of the law. Therefore, the cultivator is in a worse condition than he was before. I shall bring the whole matter before this Council at the next session and I do hope that the Council and the Government will then be in a position to consider whether the co-operative societies have done good to the cultivators of this country. Having regard to that fact, I will not say anything more on this occasion. All that I can say is this that 5 additional inspectors and 69 auditors is a demand too much.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** In moving for this grant, I have referred to the extraordinary rapidity with which the co-operative movement is spreading. In the two years ending on the 30th June, 1921, the last year for which figures are available, the number of societies increased from 4,256 to 6,366, an increase of 50 per cent. On the same date, the total working capital of the societies amounted to 3 crores 33 lakhs of rupees. Government have assumed certain responsibilities for the guidance and control of the movement, and that control cannot be relaxed. About 46 per cent. of the actual capital of the societies consists of capital invested by the societies and their members; in other words, it is largely the savings of the cultivating classes. As Lord Ronaldshay pointed out in February, 1921, a financial crisis would be a disaster, and a relaxation of Government control, would, in my opinion, lead inevitably to such a crisis. If, however, the control is to be effective, the expansion of the movement must be met by an expansion of the staff. The increase of inspectors and auditors is the smallest with which the responsibility of Government can be properly discharged. We exact from these officers the full amount of work which the Committee on Co-operation thought they could perform. I may point out that the additional auditors will be paid for by the societies. Only 9 auditors will be paid by Government in

consideration of the fact that Government exempts societies from audit fees until they have been in existence for 18 months. As Government have granted this concession, it is right that Government should bear the cost of it. Apart from this the whole cost of audit will be borne by the societies, from whom the full fees are realised and credited as receipts to Government. I assure the Council, that these proposals have been strictly scrutinised by both the past and present Registrar and by Government and that no reduction in the number of officers is possible.

As regards the increase of the auditors' pay, this is a measure which has been pressed on me frequently both by the department and by the public. Even in this Council, questions have been asked about the delay in sanctioning this increase. A fixed pay of Rs. 75 on which some of these men have served for years is quite inadequate for men of the qualifications required and for the arduous nature of their work which involves continuous touring throughout the year.

The pay of the Inspectors has received my attention, but it has been decided to defer orders until the report of the Retrenchment Committee has been received. I hope that I shall be able to remove the anomally pointed out by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta as soon as their report has been received.

I am sure that this Council will not take a course of action which must seriously hamper the development of the co-operative movement and I ask them to reject these motions.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether any scheme for the increase of pay of the inspectors has been prepared by the department?

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** Yes.

The motion of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was then put and lost.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and lost.

The next two motions of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri were then put and lost.

**Professor S. C. MUKHERJI:** I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** The question before the House is that the sum, as settled in Council, be granted for expenditure under head "34.—Agriculture."

The motion was put and agreed to.

## 35.—Industries.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I move that a sum of Rs. 30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "35.—Industries."

The amount consists of two items. Firstly, there is one of Rs. 20,000 for the establishment of a junior technical school at Hatampur. I need not dwell on the great demand for education of the type which this school impart. It will be seen that Raja Satya Niranjan Chakrabartti of Hetampur is making a most generous contribution in the shape of land, machinery and money to the cost of the school, and I am sure the Council will agree with me that Government must not loose the opportunity afforded by his generosity.

The other item is a recurring grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Technological Institute which Messrs. Tata & Sons have opened at Jamshedpur In return for the grant, five students from this province will annually be admitted to the Institute for training. During their training Messrs. Tata & Sons will pay them a monthly allowance of Rs. 60. If, on the completion of their training, they are required by Messrs. Tata & Sons to enter into a five-years' contract they will receive an initial salary which has now been raised to Rs. 200 a month, with increments according to ability shown. These, I think, it will be recognised, are very liberal terms.

The two items are sound and practical measures which will help towards solving the problem of unemployment among the middle classes and I am sure they will commend themselves to the Council.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:** I move that the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head "35.—Industries—Scheme I" be refused.

This is a proposal for the establishment of a junior technical school at a place which is scarcely known to more than a few, namely, Hetampur. In other words, I understand that this is a proposal for providing a recurring expenditure for fans and lights in the palace of that hospitable Raja of Hetampur. In another district, I mean in Mymensingh in Eastern Bengal, a similar difficulty arose in connection with another Maharaja. He bought an engine with dynamo with very much more possibilities than the luxuries of his palace demanded. The result was that the Maharaja, who was of a very patriotic nature, unfortunately fail to get up a scheme for technical education in Mymensingh, but established a limited liability company and those who know will agree with me that there is a great prospect of that company selling electric current to the town of Mymensingh. This Raja of Hetampur, through the suggestion of our Industries Department by offering some free land in his town which we know can be had almost for nothing, is about to secure all the recurring expenditure

for necessary comforts in the shape of lights and fans in his palace and including, I hope, his guest house. We are committing ourselves to an outlay of Rs. 50,000 for the first year and Rs. 12,412 annually out of fresh taxation which we have derived from the people of Bengal. I request you to permit me to draw your attention and the attention of the members of this Council to the estimated cost of manual instruction which has been sanctioned by this Council under " 31.—Education—Scheme 7." There is the Hindu School, the Hare School, the Nawab's Institution at Murshidabad, in no case the estimate has exceeded Rs. 5,000. I therefore do not understand what kind of industrial education is going to be imparted at Hetampur, an out-of-the-way place, out of reach of factories and centres of industrial activities. There are immense possibilities of starting technical institutions at Dacca where, I understand, two big workshops with electric arrangements are at present lying idle, and a committee has just been appointed to see what can be done to revive them. Government also has a big scheme for a technological institute for Calcutta. For all these, large sums of money will be required and I do not know how——

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** I hope you will be brief.

**Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur:**—this Hetampur scheme has become a very urgent proposal. Apart from the merits of the demand, I am sorry to find that the Raja of Hetampur has succeeded to turn the sympathies of our authorities to devise means to supply the cost of running electric plants and dynamos for the fans and lights of his palace, while Government is unable to meet its own liabilities without the imposition of fresh taxation. So, I believe that the Council will be well advised not to go in for a scheme of a doubtful character like this.

**Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ:** I agree in opposing this demand and my reasons will be very briefly stated. Let us examine what we have got and what we have got to give. In the first place we are to get a free gift of land for starting a junior technical school. This means perhaps a few hundred bighas which in that part of the country means practically nothing.

Then, the Raja has agreed to make over a power plant to the new school: an existing portable steam boiler, and vertical engine with dynamo of approximately 30 kilowatts in use in his palace. A very pertinent question arises, are all these things in working order or are they to be taken in hand and put ready by the expenditure of a considerable amount of public money? We do not know if really they can be taken up, as they are and at once, without any further expenditure of money. After all this is got, Government will have to meet the cost of building, equipment and furniture. This is the costliest part of the scheme which the Government will have to bear and the Raja

will get, in its stead, the free use of the machinery in order to supply his palace with electric lights and fans up to a maximum of 10 kilowatts and the public revenues will be denuded to the extent of Rs. 50,000 a year. I submit that this is a most unjustifiable expenditure. This kind of proposal made by the Raja reminds me of a little story. A certain country gentleman had a hundred-rupee currency note and he was met by a citizen who had ten rupees with him. The latter said, "you have got a piece of worthless paper, give it to me and I will give you ten rupees in exchange," and the exchange was made. The Government will take only this piece of land and give in its stead all these costly things. On this ground, I oppose this demand for a grant.

**Rai ABINASH CHANDRA BANERJEE Bahadur:** I find the grounds on which Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq have taken objection to this demand for Rs. 20,000 towards the establishment of a junior technical school at Hetampur are not well founded. I may tell the House the land there has a value, although unfortunately, Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq supposes that in that side of the country land has no value at all. As far as I know, the Raja will give any amount of land that will be required by this institute and a bigha of land there costs about Rs. 300.

As to the power plant, which the Raja is giving to this institute, viz., the boiler, the steam engine with the dynamo, the total value of them all will not be less than Rs. 25,000. If the Government has agreed to spend Rs. 20,000 towards building and other equipment, the Raja has given the school things of alomst equal value, viz., Rs. 25,000 in the shape of the boiler, steam engine and the dynamo. He has also agreed to pay all the cost of running the power plant for the use of the school over and above the cost of running this plant for the benefit of his own palace. Consequently, the supposition of Dr. Haridhan Dutt is altogether unfounded. Over and above this, he has agreed to pay Rs. 5,000 towards the maintenance of the school. As to the utility and usefulness of the school, let me tell the House that roundabout Hetampur, there are about half a dozen collieries and the boys who pass out of this school will find ready employment as mechanics, foremen, fitters and mistries there.

**Mr. SYED NASIM ALI:** After the speech of Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, it is needless to take up the time of this Council in opposing these motions for reduction.

**Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI:** I want to know why of all places Hetampur was selected. Is it because Hetampur is close to the birthplace of Lord Sinha in the district of Birbhum? Birbhum was once noted for its silk industry which has died out. If the school is intended to revive that industry then it is welcome. I have

often pointed out that a technical school for teaching the technique of jute industry and for supplementing the Serampore Weaving School with a department of this kind was an urgent necessity. If we start a jute textile technical school, I may assure the members of this House that the boys from *bhadralog* classes, as well as the sons of mill hands properly trained there, would be able to displace the imported men from Dundee. I do hope that the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahib will make further inquiries before taking up this matter of providing Rs. 50,000 for starting a technical school at Hetampur.

As regards the suggestion of Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur that this technical school will provide instruction for coal mining, I may say we have 2 or 3 coal mining schools. They are situated in the middle of the collieries and the training given there is very good, and there is no further need of an additional mining school in Birbhum.

**Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur:** I desire to know why I am not allowed to speak.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Because there is no time. You must have been furnished with a copy of the circular fixing the time-limit of each item.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I know that this Council appreciates the existence of a growing demand for technical education. It has in fact pressed on this department, by means of resolutions, the necessity for increasing the number of institutions at which technical training of various kinds can be imparted. This scheme has been drawn up by the Industries Department. The school will give an education enabling the pupils on passing out either to take up employment in workshops or in charge of a running plant or to join a large workshop as a regular apprentice. The school will be situated in an industrial neighbourhood where there are already four collieries, 12 rice-mills, two stone-crushing factories and other concerns which at present import these mechanics from other provinces. As stated in the explanatory note, Raja Satya Niranjan Chakrabatti of Hetampur has offered us generous assistance towards the establishment of the school, and I am sure the Council will not be misled by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur's remarks on this point. As regards Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq's remarks, I may say that the Director of Industries has satisfied himself that the offer is one which should be accepted. Both of these gentlemen have omitted to point out that the Raja is also giving an annual contribution of Rs. 5,000 and the cost of running the plant. It will undoubtedly become a means of providing employment for a large number of middle-class boys at a very moderate cost to Government. I ask the Council to reject these motions.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

**AYES.**

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

**NOES.**

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Atinash Chandra
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Donald, Mr. J.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
French, Mr. F. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wilson, Lieutenant-Colonel R. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 17 and the Noes 54, the motion was lost.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** As the time is up, I cannot ask Raja Maniloll Singh Roy or Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray or Maulvi A. K Fazl-ul Haq to move the motion standing conjointly in their names. I shall simply put the motion to vote.

The following motion was then put and lost:—

"That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under head '35.—Industries—Scheme 2' be refused."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 30,000 be granted for expenditure under head "35.—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

### 40.—Exchange on Transactions with London.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I move that a sum of Rs. 2,875 be granted for expenditure under head "40.—Exchange on Transactions with London."

This is a formal matter relating to the cost of remitting to London the sum due on account of four scholarships payable in England.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 41.—Civil Works.

**MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur):** I move that a sum of Rs. 2,36,734 be granted for expenditure under head "41.—Civil Works."

Of course there are some motions against this and the different departments will explain the different details.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 49,660 under head "41.—Civil Works- Scheme 3" be refused.

It was originally announced that the Kanchrapara Jail was going to be a temporary scheme. Now we see that it is going to be a permanent establishment, and a costly one too It was said by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim on the 2nd March that the original cost was estimated to be Rs. 67,000 for building this temporary camp jail, he also intimated at the time that the total cost may go up to Rs. 1,99,000. Now it appears, from the footnote appended to the demand that the total cost will be about Rs. 2,20,500; we see that the estimate of cost is going up by leaps and bounds without any sufficient reason. So I have thought it proper to refuse this demand.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I beg to support the amendment moved by my friend, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri. My position is very clear, and it is this. This Council passed a resolution that all non-co-operation prisoners should be set at liberty, and as long as they are not set at liberty, we cannot support any grants for these jails.

The member being absent, the following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 49,660 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 3' be reduced by Rs. 9,660."

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** The amount asked for now is to pay the bills outstanding on the Kanchrapara Jail. We have no intention of turning the Kanchrapara Jail into a permanency or

entertaining an expensive establishment. As a matter of fact, there is no establishment for the Kanchrapara Jail. This money is required for the Public Works charges for building the jail. On this point, I may say that the Kanchrapara Jail was not intended specially to house non-co-operation prisoners but was built owing to the strain upon our jail accommodation, due to the operations of the non-co-operation party, and it was built as an extension of our jail accommodation. As Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri told us, the original estimate was Rs. 67,000; this was purely for a prison camp of the very roughest description—merely something in which we could keep the prisoners with a guard over them. But the Jail Department considered that this was insufficient and could not be continued for more than a few days at a time. In deference, more or less to opinions expressed in this Council, additions were made to the jail for the comfort and other amenities of the prisoners confined there. This put up the cost of the jail very considerably. Sir Abd-ur-Rahim told the Council in March last that the cost then estimated would be Rs. 1,99,000 and it was expected that the jail would be finished within that month. This expectation was not fulfilled. Out of the Rs 1,99,000, Rs 1,50,000 only was spent last year. Before the jail was completed, the estimates had gone up to Rs. 2,88,000 This was partly due to the rise in the price of materials. It may be within the recollection of the Council that in March last, additional duties were placed on girders, corrugated iron, barbed wire and so forth, and this raised the cost very considerably. In the middle of April, when things began to improve, the Jail Department called upon the Public Works Department to cut down the estimate as much as possible by cutting down the actual building. The estimate was accordingly cut down from Rs. 2,88,000 to Rs. 2,20,000. That money has been spent; the jail is now complete for 3,000 prisoners and it could hold 1,500 prisoners immediately and 1,500 more with the addition of some further equipment. The Council will remember the circumstances under which the jail was built, and I need not go into them further. I think that it is the deliberate opinion of Government that this jail, although it has never been occupied, although we have no establishment there, was a very sound insurance at the time. Endeavours were being made to overwhelm Government by forcing them to stop taking action against the non-co-operators, and we had to show them that Government were prepared to carry out the law as long as it remained in force, and for that purpose we were prepared, as Sir Abd-ur-Rahim said in March, not only to build one jail, but three jails, if necessary. We built this one jail, and I am thankful to say that it has never been required, but I still maintain it is a very sound insurance. I ask the Council to pass this amount which is necessary to pay contractors for the work actually done.

The motion was then put and lost.

The member being absent, the following motion, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 15,000 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 7' be refused."

**Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI:** I wanted to tell the House that this sum was very necessary, but as the motion has not been moved by Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq, I do not think any remarks are necessary.

The member being absent, the following motion, standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazlul Haq, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 8' be refused."

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** There does not seem to be any chance of carrying this amendment, so I beg leave to withdraw it.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 6,000 under head '41.—Civil Works—Scheme 9' be refused."

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move that the demand for Rs. 65,000 under head "41.—Civil Works—Scheme 11" be refused.

The footnote has led me to press this motion. It is said in the footnote "that land has already been acquired for the project at a cost of Rs. 8,44,000 and Rs. 6,600 has been provided this year for the construction of a boundary wall for enclosing the required land. It is proposed to finance the project from loans when raised. Meanwhile it is proposed to make as much progress with the construction of the building as possible during this year with funds now available."

If this is a project which it is the object of the Government to provide for from loans, I cannot understand why Government is trying to push forward this scheme and start construction of buildings with money obtained by new taxation. Moreover, this is a scheme which is likely to involve an expenditure of lakhs and lakhs. So I think we should not be committed to such a scheme when our financial position is at such a low ebb. Let the Government first of all raise money by loans and then come forward with proposals for financing such a scheme.

The motion was then put and lost.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 65,000 under head "41.—Civil Works—Scheme 11" be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

This is the fourth time that I have got up in this Council to protest against this technical school which is going to be built somewhere in Corporation Street. I have explained times without number that this

school is merely taking up the work of the Calcutta technical evening school which gives some theoretical training to the apprentices of some engineering firms in and around Calcutta. For this work, Government has to pay only Rs. 2,000 a year now, and the main expenses are met by these firms, whose apprentices get the benefit of this training. In place of that, the Government now proposes to commit this Council to a capital expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1¼ lakhs. I seriously ask the members of this Council if we ought to pay for a mere technical school, when we cannot find funds for embarking on a technological institute for the development of industries like paper, sugar and other things, in spite of a resolution of this Council to have a technological school. Is it feasible, is it desirable that we should launch on this heavy expenditure merely to give theoretical training to apprentices of some firms who have already undertaken that work for themselves, at a minimum cost to the Government? I hope that the Council, by accepting my motion, will put its foot down on this scheme.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** The scheme for the establishment of a Technical School in Calcutta was laid before a representative Conference held at Government House in November, 1919, by Lord Ronaldshay. The proposal was to give a sound theoretical training to the apprentices who are receiving their practical training in the numerous workshops in and around Calcutta, with the object of turning out foremen-mechanics, and, in conjunction with the Civil Engineering College, a limited number of engineers. The Conference appointed a Committee with Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji as its President, to work out a scheme on these lines. The Report of the Committee was adopted at a second meeting of the Conference, and, in accordance with its recommendations, a site for the school was acquired in Corporation Street. Plans and estimates for a building designed to accommodate 500 students immediately and capable of expansion to accommodate 1,000 were then prepared and approved by Government. We are now ready to proceed with the work of building as soon as this grant is voted by the Council.

I can understand that some gentlemen feel that we are beginning in too modest a way, and would like to see us launch into a scheme for a full-fledged Technological Institute at once. But I think the majority will agree that it is desirable to proceed slowly and surely. In laying the scheme for this school before the Conference, Lord Ronaldshay expressed the view that no practical action had been taken for the establishment of a Technological Institute because the scheme was too ambitious. He urged the importance of making a modest but practical beginning and pointed out that this Technical School was capable of expansion and could be gradually developed into a Technological Institute. This future development of the school has not been lost

sight of and the Director of Industries has been directed to draw up a scheme for its gradual expansion into a Technological Institute.

In the meantime, the Technical School will afford education to a large number of apprentices which will fit them for well-paid posts in the engineering and railway workshops and it will thus assist in reducing unemployment among the middle classes.

I therefore ask the Council to reject these motions.

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** May I ask a question? The Hon'ble the Minister, in connection with a motion for the refusal of the grant required for erecting the boundary walls, said in July last: "All that I am asking for now is money to enable Government to comply with a requisition legally issued by the Calcutta Corporation." Further he said: "We have, therefore, no choice but to comply with their requisition." It was evident, therefore, that the Government had no mind to proceed in this matter and what little was going to be done had to be done at the instance of the Calcutta Corporation. The question, therefore——

**Mr. J. A. L. SWAN:** May I rise to a point of order? Is Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri to speak for a second time?

**Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I simply wanted to know whether the attitude of the Government has changed in the matter.

**SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry):** The demand of Rs. 65,000 does not include the cost of the wall.

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (to Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri):** You had better sit down.

The motions of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 2,36,734 be granted for expenditure under head "41.—Civil Works" was then put and agreed to.

### 46.—Stationery and Printing.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I move that a sum of Rs. 4,281 be granted for expenditure under head "46.—Stationery and Printing."

This relates to an enterprise of my Hon'ble Colleague, the Minister for Education. He wishes to supply some of his young friends with ink—Government ink—my ink, and therefore it is my duty to lay this demand before the Council. The Hon'ble the Minister says that his young friends will pay for the ink, so I have no objection. If any

members require any further particulars, the Hon'ble the Minister will supply them.

The following motions, standing in the names of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq and Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha respectively, were in the absence of the members, deemed to have been withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,281 under head '46.—Stationery and Printing—Scheme I ' be refused."

" That the demand for Rs. 4,281 under head ' 46.—Stationery and Printing—Scheme I ' be reduced by half."

The original demand was then put and agreed to.

### 47.—Miscellaneous.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I move that a sum of Rs. 1,300 be granted for expenditure under head " 47.—Miscellaneous."

This is also an enterprise of the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter relating to an Education Department Committee at Dacca. As provision has to be made under this particular head for the Committee's inquiry, it falls upon me to move this resolution.

The member being absent, the following motion, standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 1,300 under head ' 47.—Miscellaneous—Scheme I ' be refused."

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the demand for Rs. 1,300 under head " 47 —Miscellaneous—Scheme I," be reduced by Rs. 100.

This is a motion for protesting against the formation of this Committee. I do not like to mention the names of members of this Committee, but I should like to point out to the House that I know about some of them, and I have yet to know what particular claim they can have to know about vocational education and things of that kind. I may tell a story in this Council which will explain my meaning more fully. Only a few days ago, a meeting of this vocational committee was held at Dacca and a friend of mine, lately returned from Germany and England and an expert in technical matters, was at Dacca at that time. On a certain morning, one of the members of the Committee came in a hurry to my friend and said: " We have a meeting of the vocational committee to-day—can you suggest something to me? I do not know what to suggest, can you give me some tips?" If this class of members are allowed to sit on the vocational education committee, I am sorry for our young men and I am afraid their future is very uncertain indeed. I think the Hon'ble the Minister should really take in some members who know something about vocational education.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** I am very glad that my hon'ble friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, has taken this opportunity of bringing this fact to the notice of this House and through it to the public. This apprehension has been repeated so often and I have been trying to explain this matter so often that I welcome this opportunity of making a further explanation. Many of my friends think— and amongst them my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, is one—that if you have to work out a scheme of vocational education we must have an expert. Supposing we have an expert in mechnical engineering in the committee and if that committee is considering an agricultural scheme, will that gentleman be of any assistance? If that committee is again considering medical education, will an agricultural expert be of any use there? If that committee is to deal with the question of civil engineering, will the medical gentleman be of any use? It stands to reasons that we cannot have an expert who is expert in all things, but we have provided for technical advice as will be seen from the published resolution. The committee has the power to co-opt other members for the consideration of any particular question, for instance, when the committee considers the question of mechanical engineering I am sure Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's friend, who has lately returned from Europe, Mr. S. K. Dutta may very well be co-opted as a member.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I did not mention any names.

**The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER:** But I know the facts all the same. In agricultural matters I dare say the committee will co-opt some persons who know something about that subject and so on. The committee does not purport to consist solely of experts, but it purports to consist mainly of men carrying on educational activities in Dacca and provision for utilising expert knowledge is provided for in the resoluton. I think that this explanation will satisfy the hon'ble member and that he will see that there is no point for criticism.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** In view of the fact that the Hon'ble the Minister has accepted my suggestion that the experts should have some voice in the committee I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

**The Hon'ble Mr P. C. MITTER:** I accepted that view long before my friend made his criticisms. It was a part of the resolution which has been published.

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 1,300 be granted for expenditure under head "47.—Miscellaneous" was then put and agreed to.

## Additional Demands for Grants.

### Expenditure in England—High Commissioner.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I move that a sum of Rs. 5,750 be granted for expenditure under head "Expenditure in England—High Commissioner."

This is on account of a certain scholarship-holder who is undergoing training in England. The High Commissioner has recommended the extension of his scholarship for four months more in order to enable him to complete his practical training.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 22.—General Administration.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I move that sums of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 4,000 be transferred from head "22—General Administration—Civil Secretariat" to the head "40.—Exchange on Transactions with London" and to the estimate of the Secretary of State, for payment of Rs. 6,000 as outfit and voyage expenses to the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, who has been appointed President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

This sum has been granted by His Excellency the Governor to the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton who has been appointed President of this Chamber for his outfit and voyage expenses. It is an ordinary incidence of high appointments of this kind made in England. A Judge of the High Court when appointed in England receives £300 as his outfit and equipment expenses. A Governor of a Province when appointed in England receives a sum to be fixed by the Secretary of State as his outfit expenses. I believe the Bishop of Calcutta also gets this. The predecessor of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton received no such allowance because he was appointed in India and in no case is this given when the appointment is made in India. The cost is meant to cover expenses when moving from one country to another country. The only possible reason that I can see for any opposition to this is the argument that as it was not done in the case of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's predecessor why should the Council be asked to pay this now. The sum has been fixed by the Governor and it was fixed by him after the Council had adjourned on the last occasion. It had to be fixed and had to be paid in as a part of the arrangement for the appointment, and His Excellency the Governor has now placed it before the Council. I trust, therefore, that the members who have sent in a motion for refusal will see their way to withdraw it and let the House gracefully meet the demand.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I move that the additional demand for the transfer of Rs. 6,000 as outfit and voyage expenses to the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton be refused.

I must confess that it is a most delicate and difficult matter to have to move an amendment of this nature. I yield to none in my anxiety for the dignity of the Council, and it is farthest from my thoughts to criticise the personal aspect of a demand, which touches the dignity of the new President of this Council.

If a non-Indian President had to be selected—though I do not see why it was necessary at all, there are plenty of able men in Bengal—I am sure that no better selection could have been made than that of the able son of that great friend of India, Sir Henry Cotton.

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** May I rise to a point of order? Is the hon'ble member in order in discussing the personal aspect of the question?

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I shall not go into the personal aspect. What I should like to protest against is the principle underlying this demand. I understand it is an unwritten custom, that when you import officers from England, you have to pay for their outfit. Well, I shall not take advantage of to-day's debate to attack that custom; I shall have occasion enough to protest against that in my resolution about the Indianisation of the Services, next session. But, what I do want to say is this, that, it was the clear duty of the Government to ask this Council before the money was actually paid out. I protest against this system of paying the money first, and coming to the Council afterwards. It was well-known to the Government as soon as the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton was appointed that according to the unwritten custom just mentioned by me, it would be required to pay his outfit. Then, why did not the Government bring this up at the July session? Even now, there are yet more than two months more before he can come out; why, then did not the Government wait till this session was over? Sir, this is not the first occasion, when Government has spent the money first and come to the Council afterwards. If that be the system approved by the Government, then why come to the Council at all? Because you have the power of restoration of grants, is it fair to treat this Council with such scant courtesy? I say, do not make this Council a bigger farce than you can help. I sincerely trust that the Hon'ble the Member will assure us that Government will not treat us like this in the future.

As regards the transfer of funds from the saving of the pay of the ministerial staff, I think it is the cruelest cut of all. From what I know of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton, he would be the first to join with me in protesting against this source of money. While the poor ministerial officers have been vainly trying to make both ends meet, the Finance Department is trying to go back on the resolution of this Council, may even on the report of the McAlpin Committee by issuing circular after circular that ministerial officers who have served in Eastern and Western Bengal should not have their services counted—

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the matter of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's outfit allowance?

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I submit it is relevant for the amount has been taken from the budget allotments for ministerial officers.

**The Hon'ble Sir JOHN KERR:** I can assure the member that not a single member of the ministerial staff will get a pice less owing to this.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I am very glad of this assurance, but what we wanted was that this sum might have been taken from some other head.

**Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY:** I am glad that my friend has not alluded to the personal aspect of the appointment, but has based his motion on grounds of economy and principle. Only yesterday my friend complained that retrenchment has got into the brains of some persons. Well, I am very glad that my friend has spared the President-designate of what I may describe as a foretaste of the retrenchment. However that may be, I trust that my friend will be pleased to withdraw his resolution and let the original motion be passed by the Council.

**Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA:** I am ready to withdraw my motion, but may I ask the Hon'ble the Member to give an assurance that in future money will not be spent before the question is before the Council?

**The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON:** I do not think it is possible for me to give that assurance.

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand was then put and agreed to.

### 24.—Administration of Justice.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM:** I move that a sum of Rs. 4,887 be transferred from the head "24.—Administration of Justice—Presidency Magistrates' Courts" to the head "41.—Civil Works" on account of works in connection with the accommodation of the Traffic Court at Bankshall Street.

This is only a formal matter. This is a saving effected by our giving up the building we had taken on lease for accommodating the Traffic Court as we have now decided that the Traffic Court

should sit in Bankshall Street as we have found that it can be accommodated there.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 32.—Medical.

**The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** I move that a sum of Rs. 6,600 under the head "32.—Medical—Medical Schools and Colleges—Salaries of Professors, etc., Medical College, Non-voted," be transferred from *non-voted* to *voted* to meet the salary of Dr. Tarak Nath Sur, Officiating Professor of Pathology, Medical College, Calcutta, and Bacteriologist to Government.

This is really a very formal matter. Dr. Sur is a non-I.M.S. officer officiating in an appointment which is reserved for I.M.S. officers. Therefore, his salary is to be voted and he drew a less salary than what an I.M.S. officer did. Therefore, there is a saving and I beg that this sum may be granted by the House.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 35.—Industries.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I move that a sum of Rs. 26,362 be transferred from "35.—Industries—Industrial Education" to "41.—Civil Works" for the construction of Mining Lecture Halls at Raniganj and Sitarampur and quarters for the Assistant lecturers at these places.

The scheme is not a new one. Money was provided for it in last year's budget. Unfortunately, owing to delays in the land acquisition proceedings, little progress could be made in the construction of the buildings last year, and the bulk of the expenditure will have to be met this year. The printed note which has been circulated explains how we have arranged to find the money, and I ask the Council to approve of the transfer.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 41.—Civil Works.

**The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur:** I move that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be granted under "41.—Civil Works" for construction of public offices for the district of Noakhali at Maijdi.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

**SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** "That the supplementary demand for Rs. 2,00,000 under head '41.—Civil Works' for the construction of public offices at Maijdi (Noakhali) be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The original demand was put and agreed to.

### 43.—Famine Relief and Insurance.

**The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN:** I move that a sum of Rs. 20,000 under "43.—Famine Relief and Insurance" be transferred from non-voted to voted to meet expenditure in connection with the flood operations.

The printed memorandum gives the reason for which I ask this amount and I need not add anything further.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### Prorogation

**The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT:** Gentlemen, I have been desired by His Excellency the Governor to announce that he has been pleased to prorogue the Council.

The members then dispersed.

B. S. Press—10-10-1922—1784J—1,606—F. T. R and others.

# INDEX

TO

# THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

## (Official Reports.)

## VOLUME IX.—NINTH SESSION.

## August 23rd to 31st, 1922.


**"Abwabs"**

Realization of —by private landlords in the Sundarbans area, 307

**Additional Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates,** 127.

**Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone**

Adjournment of Council, 254
Allowance of members, 323
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 107.
Demands for grants, 381, 391, 392
Dwelling houses for the poor and labouring classes of Calcutta, 23
Education Standing Committee, 14.
Improvement of water-supply, 158
Realization of *abwabs* by private landlords in the Sundarbans area, 308.
Sittings of Standing Committee on Local Self-Government, 121.
Sittings of Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health, 121
Staff Selection Board, 195.
Supply of cows' milk, 339, 345, 351.
Tangail Bindubashini School, 445.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 317.

**Adjournment,** 110, 170, 225, 254, 296, 353, 423.

**Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.**

Admission of Muhammadan students into Dacca School of Engineering, 70.
*Id-ul-fitr* holidays for Muhammadan Jail prisoners, 435.
uage examinations, 24.

**Agricultural Demonstration Centres,** 197.

**Agricultural Department**

Alleged irregularities in accounts in Northern and Western Circles of, 17.

**Agricultural Schemes adopted on Council Resolutions,** 23

**Agriculture**

Inspection of the Office of the Deputy Director of , Western Circle, 111.

**Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin**

Demands for grants, 409, 415, 461.
Improvement of water supply, 147
Salary System to Copyists of Courts, 25.
Staff Selection Board, 188.

**Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin**

Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 105.
Demands for grants, 408, 412, 460
Improvement of water supply, 155, 156.
Pabna Girls' School, 337.
Provincialization of Pabna Middle English Girls' School, 332.
Rural water-supply, 64.
Staff Selection Board, 186.

**Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin**

Appraisers in Calcutta Customs, 39
Cost of settlement buildings, etc., in Jessore, 357.
Indians in the Calcutta Preventive Service, 39.
Khulna Settlement office vacancies, 54.
Ministerial officers of the Settlement Department, 121.

**Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin**
Overtime work of Preventive officers at salt golas, 40

**Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin**
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 97.
Demands for grants, 415.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 271.

**Aley, Mr S. Mahboob**
Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery in Calcutta, 226.

**Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan**
Extension of Calcutta Rent Act, 12.
Overbridge at Poradah, 111
Sacrifice of cows in village Garadob in Meherpur on *Bakr Id*, 9
Varole Khal Bridge near Poradah, 8, 227.

**Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim**
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 96, 105.
Demand for grant, 467.
Radiological Institute, 215.
Staff Selection Board, 166.
Supply of cows' milk, 347.

**Alipore Central Jail**
Arrangement of interviews of special class prisoners in, 432
Orders allowing fruits to Muhammadan prisoners in—during *Ramzan*, 429.

**Allowance (s)**
Increase of residential, 330.
Travelling and residential— of members, 317.

**Anti-malarial**
Or sanitary drainage schemes, 33.
Schemes, 27.

**Appointments in the Bengal Secretariat Press**, 310.

**Arbitration courts of non-co-operators**, 426.

**Assam-Bengal Railway**
Waiting rooms at stations on the, 117.

**Associations**
Organization of village people into Consumers', 115.

**Auditing of Union Boards' Accounts**, 371.

**Ayurvedic and Unani Report**, 53

**Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed**
Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta Police, 358.

**Bajitpur Municipality**
Excavation of a tank within, 297.

**Bakarganj**
Alleged Council of Action formed by—District Magistrate, 429.
Defalcation of court-fee stamps in—Treasury, 79.

**Bakarganj Cattle**, 449.

**Bakarganj Treasury**
Defalcation of court-fee stamps in, 13.

**Balurghat**
Period of stay of the Subdivisional Officer of, 5.
Transfer of cases from the file of the Subdivisional Officer, 298.

**Banerjea, The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath**
Accommodation for students in Medical Institutions, 20
Admission of students into Calcutta Medical College, 16.
Allotments of cess income to Union Boards, 32
Anti-malarial schemes, 27, 33
Auditing of Union Boards Accounts, 371.
Ayurvedic and Unani Report, 53.
Bakarganj cattle, 450.
"Bil Boral" scheme in the Narail subdivision of the district of Jessore, 316.
Choking up of Dankuni Canal, 249.
Demands for Grants, 412, 415, 417, 419, 421, 422, 480
Dwelling houses for the poor and labouring classes of Calcutta, 23
Economy in the administration of the Ministry of Local Self-Government, 18.
Establishment of a Union Committee at Haturia in Pabna, 76
Extension of Calcutta Rent Act, 13.
Fees for examination of adulterated food-stuffs, 375.
Filtered water-supply in suburban municipalities, 26.
Filtered water-supply to Baranagore municipality, 41.
Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents in certain hospitals, 28.
Improvement of water-supply, 135, 136, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 159.
Infant and child mortality 150.
Kala-azar in Barasat, 15.
Kala-azar in Burdwan, 76.
Kala-azar in Tangail, 54.

**Banerjea, The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath**
Loans for malarial and other schemes, 45.
Loans to District Boards for water-supply, 4.
Malarious districts, 31.
Medical practitioners on field service, 238.
Medical relief by employing peripatetic village practitioners, 29
Medical schemes on Council Resolutions, 49.
Medico-legal cases, 26
Names and designations of the officers in the various branches of the Medical Service, 313.
Pabna water-works, 355.
Polling centres for election to the Lal bagh Local Board, 47, 48
Population of Bengal, 32
Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery in Calcutta, 226
Publication and sale of papers of local bodies, 447.
Radiological Institute, 212
Reduction of staff on District Officers being relieved of duties of Chairmen of District Boards, 4
Rural water-supply, 64, 67.
Sanitary improvements, 20
Scarcity of drinking water in Vishnupur, 16.
Serampore Khal, 32
Sittings of Standing Committee on Local-Self-Government, 121.
Sittings of Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health, 121
Tangail Bindubashini School, 445.
Thana dispensaries, 28.
Transfer of incomes from firms to Naihati Union Board, 32
Vaccination, 247.
Vice-Chairman, Bhatpara municipality, 373.
Water-hyacinth, 299
Water-works at Tangail, 20, 21.

**Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra**
Demands for grants, 462, 467.
Improvement of water-supply, 154.

**Baranagore**
Filtered water-supply to—municipality, 41.

**Baraset**
Kala-azar in, 15.

**Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway, 241.**

**Barisal**
Alleged censorship of telegrams at, 442.
Alleged delay in delivery of a letter addressed to a prisoner of —Jail, 425.
Alleged flogging of prisoners in the —Jail, 272
Braja Mohan College, 434
Hunger strike in —Jail, 374.
Inspection note of a non official visitor of —Jail, 306
Penal diet to under-trial prisoners in —Jail, 437
Statement made by Gopal Chandra Sen of the Jail, 303
Treatment of non co-operation prisoners in —Jail, 312
Visit of the Inspector-General of Prisons to, 300
Whipping in Jail, 362.
Whipping of political prisoners in —Jail 356, 441.

**Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan**
Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 81.

**Barton, Mr. H.**
Staff Selection Board, 162.

**Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath**
Allowance of members, 323.
Fish Market Fund of the Calcutta University, 436

**Bengal Civil Service**
Recruitment to from certain districts of Burdwan Division, 148.

**Bengal Educational Service**
Educational services below, 240.

**Bengal Radiological Institute**
Establishment of a, 203.

**Bengal Secretariat Press**
Appointments in the, 310.

**Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Committee, 124.**

**Bhairab River**
Reclamation of —of Nadia, 60.

**Bhatpara Municipality**
Vice-Chairman, 372.

**Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra**
Reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service, 359.
Subordinate Educational Service, 70.
Temporary piece-workers of Secretariat Press, 239.

**Bill**

Bengal Excise (Amendment)—, 1922, 81.

Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment)—1922, 83, 379.

**Booking of goods**

Stoppage of—*via* Santahar, 50.

**Bose, Mr. S. M.**

Excavation of a tank within Bajitpur municipality, 297.

Increase of residential allowance, 330.

**Brahmanbaria**

Dacoities in, 128.

**Braja Mohan College, Barisal,** 228, 434.

**Brothels**

Steps against, 2.

**Building grants for Schools in Pabna and Bogra,** 437.

**Burdwan**

Kala-azar in, 76.

Land Acquisition Office, 68.

Murder cases in, 33.

**Burial Board**

Calcutta Christian—fee, 22.

**Calcutta**

Activities of the—Research Tannery, 302.

Admission of students into—Medical College, 16.

Appraisers in—Customs, 39

Dwelling houses for the poor and labouring classes of, 23.

Expenditure of the—University 361.

Extension of—Rent Act, 12.

Facilities to Moslem students for study in—Technical School, 113.

Financial condition of the—University, 63.

Financial control over—and Dacca Universities, 123.

Fish Market Fund of the—University, 436.

Indians in the—Preventive Service, 39.

Muhammadans on the—University Staff, 368.

New Mounted Police in, 7.

Picketing of foreign cloths in, 72.

Police Committee Report, 7.

Principal of—Madrassa and Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, 234.

**Calcutta**

Realization of fees from certain clubs for erection of temporary structures on—Maidan, 78.

University Institute, 438, 439.

**Cess**

Allotments of—income to Union Boards, 32.

**Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan**

Copyists and typists employed in mufassal Courts, 354

Demands for grants, 384, 389, 391. 456, 457,

Disposal of the dead body of a prisoner of the Pabna Jail, 424.

Flogging of prisoners, 295, 296.

Improvement of water-supply, 138, 155.

Inspection of the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle, 111.

Period of stay of the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat, 5.

Receipt of presents by Magistrates, 433.

Salangahat Magisterial Inquiry, 430.

Staff Selection Board, 165, 195.

Status of Vakils in the Calcutta High Court, Original Side, 13.

Superintendent of Sericulture, 112.

Transfer of cases from the file of the Subdivisional Officer, Balurghat, 298.

Water-hyacinth, 298

**Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath**

Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 201.

Allowances of members, 329.

Demand for grant, 472.

Flogging of prisoners, 291, 292.

Irrigation Works, 223.

**Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman**

Medico-legal cases, 25.

**Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath**

Action of Government officers against Public Press, 40.

Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway, 241.

Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 91.

Demands for grants, 392, 400, 419, 456, 458, 459, 470, 472, 474.

Expenditure of the Calcutta University, 361.

Extension of local train service on the central section of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 64.

**Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath**
Filtered water-supply to Baranagore municipality, 41.
Filtered water-supply in suburban municipalities, 26.
Flogging of prisoners, 288.
Inspectors of factories, 115.
Kala-azar in Baraset, 15.
Lease of Sundarbans arable lands to capitalists, 11, 12.
Pargiter's History of the Sundarbans, 241.
Persons dealt with under Criminal Procedure Code for political work, 71
Picketing of foreign cloths in Calcutta, 72
Political prisoners arrested or convicted for employing methods of assassination, 442.
'Ryotwari" settlement in Sundarbans, 120.
Realization of *abwabs* by private landlords in the Sundarbans area, 307
Realization of arrears of rent in the Sundarban lands, 55.
Statement of Inspector-General of Prisons as to future treatment of special class prisoners, 436.
Whipping in Barisal Jail, 362.

**Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh**
Cost of construction of Kidderpore Bridge, 171.

**Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali**
Activities of the Calcutta Research Tannery, 303.
Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 202.
Alleged accidents to cattle on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 66
Alleged irregularities in accounts in Northern and Western Circles of Agricultural Department, 17.
Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway, 241.
Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 82.
Cows as plough cattle, 179
Culverts along the Tarakessur Branch of the East Indian Railway and the Bengal Provincial Railway, 68.
Demands for grants, 390, 451, 452, 453, 454, 456, 457, 460, 463, 465, 468, 470, 473, 480.
Development of communication in the district of Pabna, 178.
Dilpashar station on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 65.

**Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali**
Erosion of Ganges Bank at Pabna, 370.
Excavation of a tank within Bajitpur municipality, 297.
Extension of local tram service on the Central Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 64
Facilities to Moslem students for study in Calcutta Technical School, 113.
Howrah-Amta Railway fares, 51.
Infant Industries of Bengal, 234.
Inspection of the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle, 111
Jute forecast, 116
Organization of village people into Consumers' Associations, 115.
Overbridge at Poradah, 111.
Pabna Agricultural Farm, 179
Pabna Weaving Industry, 119
Plans for development of industries in Bengal, 173
Price-lists of commercial products, 113.
Railway Advisory Councils, 120
Raised platforms at the important stations on the Bandel Barharwa and Howrah-Burdwan Chord lines on the East Indian Railway, 315
Reorganization of the Co-operative Department, 181.
Scarcity of wagons on the Eastern Bengal Railway, 300
Statement of rainfall, 120.
Stoppage of booking of goods via. Santahar, 50.
Superintendent of Sericulture, 112.
Supply of cows' milk, 349.
Varole Khal Bridge near Poradah, 227.
Wages of agricultural labourers, 113.
Waiting room at Poradah, 46.
Waiting-rooms at stations on the Assam-Bengal Railway, 117.
Waiting-room for females at Ranaghat, 45.

**Chaukidars**
Payment of, 246

**Chittagong**
Supply of drinking water to court buildings in, 177.

**Choking up of Dhankuni canal** 248.

**Cholera**
Statistics, of, 4.

**Chaprasis in Judicial and Executive Departments of** Districts, 22.

**Cinchona Plantations,** 235.

**Circuit Houses**
Use of—by members of Council, 55.

**Civil Suits and Criminal Cases in the Tippera District,** 30.

**Collector of Tippera,** 123.

**Commerce Department Schemes on Council Resolutions,** 37.

**Congestion of traffic in certain crossings in Calcutta,** 8.

**Co-operative Department**
Reorganization of the, 181.

**Copyists and Typists of Courts,** 10, 354

**Cotton Cess**
Proposed levy of—on commercial, 67.

**Council**
Non-sittings of Bengal Legislative—on Saturdays and ceremonial occasions, 245.

**Courtesy Title of Nawabzada,** 29

**Courts**
Rule as to the sitting of, 299.
Selection of copyists, typists and comparing clerks in, 62.

**Cows as plough cattle,** 179.

**Cows**
Sacrifice of—in village Garadob in Meherpur on *Bakr-Id*, 9

**Criminal Procedure Code**
Persons dealt with under—for political work, 71

**Culverts along the Tarakessur Branch of the East Indian Railway and the Bengal Provincial Railway,** 68

**Dacca**
Excavating canals in, 59
Realization of arrears of rent from zamindars of, 59
Recording of proprietary rights in respect of public ways and pasture lands under—settlements, 58
Revenue sale of properties in the—district, 60.

**Dacca School of Engineering**
Admission of Muhammadan students into, 70.

**Dacca University,** 46.

**Dacoities in Brahmanbaria,** 128.

**Damodar Canal Water Rates,** 38.

**Dankuni canal**
Choking up of, 248.

**Darjeeling**
Stay of Under Secretaries in, 34.

**Das, Babu Bhishmadev**
Candidates for Sub-Inspectorship from Faridpur Namasudra community, 42.
Condition of certain schools in Gopalganj subdivision of Faridpur, 72.
Madaripur bil route canal, 242.
Munsiffs at Madaripur, 61.
Namasudra candidates for Sub-Registrarship, 73
Revised increased rates of salary of different departments, 308.
Scholarships to students of backward classes, 65.

**Das, Rai Bahadur R. M.**
Extension of service to, 443

**Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra**
Authority controlling payment of fees to pleaders in mufassal, 112
Braja Mohun College, Barisal, 434.
Defalcation of court-fee stamps in Bakarganj Treasury, 13, 14
Demands for grants, 393, 454
Flogging of prisoners, 292.
Kanungoes, 9
Lawyers' fees paid by Government, 122.
Rule as to the sitting of courts, 299
Staff Selection Board, 196.
Supervision of Subordinate Courts by High Court, 431.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 262.

**De, Babu Fanindralal**
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 255, 267.

**Deputy-President**
Adjournment of Council, 254.
Allowances of members, 319, 321, 322, 325, 330
Amendment of Standing Order 24 (2), 130
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 89, 94, 103.
Circular letters from Retrenchment Committee, 80
Demands for grants, 383, 387, 392, 405, 412, 413, 451, 455, 458, 464, 466, 468, 469, 474.

**Deputy President**
Flogging of prisoners, 275, 276, 285, 296.
Improvement of water-supply, 137, 151, 155, 158, 159.
Increase of residential allowance, 330
Miscellaneous matters, 353.
Murder cases in Burdwan, 34
Panel of Chairmen, 1.
Prorogation, 481
Radiological Institute, 215
Realization of *abwabs* by private landlords in the Sundarbans areas, 308
Regarding withdrawal of a member's remark, 80
Staff Selection Board, 169, 195, 196
Supply of cows' milk, 344, 345, 346
Travelling and residential allowance of members, 257, 258, 259, 261, 264, 269, 271, 317
Under-trial prisoners of Patuakhali Sub-Jail and buckets for carrying water, 57

**Diet money of witnesses in suits,** 312

**Dilpashar Station on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway,** 65

**Dispensaries**
Thana, 28

**District Boards**
Reduction of staff on District Officers being relieved of duties of Chairmen of, 3

**Division List**
Allowances of members, 329
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 101, 109, 110
Demands for grants, 398, 417, 469
Staff Selection Board, 196
Supply of cows' milk, 352

**Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal**
Reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Services, 213, 363, 365, 367
Subordinate Educational Service, 123.

**Doveton College Funds,** 36

**Drainage of submerged lands in Burdwan and Hooghly districts for cultivation,** 316.

**Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder**
Amounts drawn annually by the Official Assignee, High Court, Calcutta, 299.
Anti-malarial schemes, 27.
Scarcity of drinking water in Vishnupur, 15.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 267.

**Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan**
Admission of students into Calcutta Medical College, 16
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 95
Cinchona plantations, 235
Demands for grants, 393, 405, 406, 418, 455, 465, 466
Establishment of a Bengal Radiological Institute, 208
Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents in certain hospitals, 27
Immovable properties of Government servants, 1
Improvement of water supply, 158.
Irrigation works, 220
Jute forecast, 116
Medical relief by employing peripatetic village practitioners, 29
River Surveyers employed by the Port Commissioners of Calcutta, 309
Thana dispensaries, 28

**Dutta, Babu Annanda Charan**
Flogging of prisoners, 287
Staff Selection Board, 163
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 267, 269, 271

**Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan**
Adjournment of Council, 254
Alleged flogging of prisoners in the Barisal Jail, 272, 273, 276
Alleged irregularities in account in Northern and Western Circles of Agricultural Department, 17
Allowance of members, 324, 325
Bakarganj cattle, 151
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 92 103.
Demands for grants, 393, 395, 402, 406, 412 413, 417, 419, 424, 452, 454, 456, 460, 464, 470, 472, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479
Financial control over Calcutta and Dacca Universities, 123
Flogging of prisoners, 280, 281, 283, 287, 296
Improvement of water-supply, 134, 135, 137, 138, 159
Murder cases in Burdwan, 34.
Newspapers publishing notifications, 176.
Padma incident, 182
Penal diet to under trial prisoners in Barisal Jail, 437

**Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan**
Publication of inspection notes of non-official visitors of jails, 176.
Revision of pay of police sub-inspectors, 42.
Staff Selection Board, 184.
Under-trial prisoners of Patuakhali Sub-Jail and buckets for carrying water, 57.
Visit of the Inspector-General of Prisons to Barisal, 300

**East Indian Railway**
Raised platforms at the important stations on the Bandel-Barharwa and Howrah-Burdwan Chord lines on the 315

**Eastern Bengal Railway**
Alleged accidents to cattle on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the, 66
Extension of local tram service on the central section of the, 64
Leaky roofs of carriages and of inland steamers, 114.
Scarcity of wagons on the, 300.

**Economy**
In the Administration of the Ministry of Local Self-Government, 18
In the Ministry of Education, 29

**Education Department**
Ministerial officers of certain offices of the 129.

**Education Standing Committee,** 14.

**Examination(s)**
Centre for language—of officers, 18
Language, 24.
Officers eligible for certain language, 19

**Expenditure on Muhammadan hostels and messes,** 368.

**Extension of service to Rai Bahadur R. M. Das,** 443.

**Factories**
Inspectors of, 115.

**Famine Relief Fund,** 117

**Faridpur**
Candidates for Sub-Inspectorship from—Namasudra community, 42.
Conditions of certain schools on Gopalganj subdivision, 72.

**Farequi, Mr. K. G. M**
Use of circuit houses by members of Council, 55.

**Fees for examination of adulterated foodstuffs,** 375.

**Financial Control over Dacca and Calcutta Universities,** 123.

**Flogging of prisoners**
Alleged—in the Barisal Jail, 272.

**Ganges**
Lower—Bridge and Nadia Rivers, 21.

**Ghose, Mr. D. C.**
Radiological Institute, 213.
Travelling and residential allowance of members, 257.

**Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder**
Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 197.
Allowances of members, 326.
Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 81.
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 94 104.
Demands for grants, 385, 393, 406, 407, 409, 457, 462, 468.
Flogging of prisoners, 278.
Improvement of water-supply, 136, 137, 154, 158
Staff Selection Board, 162

**Goode, Mr. S. W.**
Demands for grants, 415, 420.
Right of asking questions and moving resolutions in local bodies, 435
Statistics of cholera, 5.

**"Goondaism" in Calcutta,** 7.

**Government Bills,** 81.

**Gumti Embankments,** 55.

**Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul**
Appointments in the Bengal Secretariat Press, 310.
Appraisers in Calcutta Customs, 40.
Demands for grants, 384, 389, 391, 392, 395, 405, 407, 408, 452, 455, 456, 458, 466.
Economy in the Administration of the Ministry of Local Self-Government, 18.
Economy in the Ministry of Education, 29.
Expenditure on Muhammadans' hostels and messes, 368.
Flogging of prisoners, 278, 288.
Hardinge Law College Hostels, 369.
Meeting of Syndicates on "*Id*" day, 245.
Muhammadans in the office of the Bengali Translator, 442.

**Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul**

Muhammadans on the Calcutta University staff, 368.

Recruitment of Muhammadans to Government posts, 437.

Staff Selection Board, 159, 163, 185, 192.

**Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul**

Additional Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates, 127

Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 202

Alleged accidents to cattle on Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 66

Alleged delay in the disposal of Settlement suits in Tippera district, 125.

Amendment of Standing Order 24 (2), 130.

Baral and Ichamati Rivers of Pabna, 56

Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 82

Bengal Tenancy Act (Amendment) Committee, 124.

Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill 1922, 90, 104, 110

Buildings grants for school in Pabna and Bogra, 437

Calcutta University Institute, 439

Chaukidars of Pabna, 6.

Checking of Council Members' Travelling Allowance Bill, 42.

Civil Suits and Criminal Cases in the Tippera district, 30

Collector of Tippera, 123

Copyists and Typists of Courts, 10

Courtesy title of Nawabzada, 29.

Dacoities in Brahmanbaria, 128.

Demands for grants, 389, 391, 392, 399, 402, 405, 410, 418, 419, 456, 458, 481

Development of communication in the district of Pabna, 178.

Dilpashar station on Ishurdi-Sirajgunj Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway 65.

Erosion of Ganges Bank at Pabna, 370.

Establishment of a Union Committee at Haturia in Pabna, 76.

Extension of service to Rai Bahadur R M Das, 443.

Facilities to Moslem prisoners for prayers, 125.

Gumti Embarkments, 55.

*Khaddar* and Government servants, 66.

Improvement of water, supply, 131, 132. 137.

Kasba Munsifi, 446.

**Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul**

Management of the Calcutta University Institute, 438.

Mechuabazar Incidents Inquiry Committee, 118.

Model primary schools in Pabna district, 444.

Muhammadan holidays, 43.

Non sittings of Bengal Legislative Council on Saturdays and ceremonial occasions, 245

Number of literate and illiterate population in the Pabna district, 311.

Number of suits in each district, 126

Pabna agricultural farm, 178.

Pabna Girls' School, 334.

Pabna water works, 355

Pabna Weaving Industry, 118.

Pay drawn by Ministers, 444

Payment of chaukidars, 246.

Presidency Jail outbreak, 118.

Publication and sale of papers of local bodies, 447

Right of asking questions and moving resolutions in local bodies, 435.

Salangahat shooting, 439

Scarcity of wagons on the Eastern Bengal Railway, 300.

Sluice gate at the mouth of the Sunfulla Jola, 18

Students' Union, 30

Subdivisional Officers partaking of the hospitality of influential persons in the mufassal, 440

Summary procedure for recovery of rents by zamindars, 73.

Telegraph station at Sujanagar, Pabna, 369

Travelling and residential allowances of members, 263, 264

Travelling and halting charges of certain officers of Pabna, 116.

Travelling charges of Government servants 61

Union Benches and Courts in Tippera, 74.

Union Courts, 251.

Waiting rooms at stations on the Assam-Bengal Railway, 117.

**Hardinge Law College Hostels,** 369.

**Haturia**

Establishment of a Union Committee at — in Pabna, 76.

**High Court**

Supervision of Subordinate Courts by, 431.

**"Hok Katha,"** 14.

**Hospitals**
Honorary Physicians and Surgeons as Additional Superintendents in certain, 27.

**Howrah-Amta Railway fares,** 50

**Howrah-Burdwan chord line**
Thefts and dacoities on, 247.

**Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur**
Demand for grant, 415
Pabna Girls' School, 334.
Supply of cows' milk, 344, 345, 346, 347.

**"Id" day**
Meeting of Syndicate on, 245.

**"Id-ul-Fitr" holidays for Muhammadan Jail prisoners,** 435

**Immovable properties of Government servants,** 1.

**Industries**
Infant of Bengal, 234
Plans for development of in Bengal, 172.

**Infant and child mortality,** 249.

**Inspector-General of Police,** 67

**Irrigation works,** 215

**Ishurdi-Sirajganj Branch**
Alleged accidents to cattle on of the Eastern Bengal Railway, 66

**Jail Standing Committee**
Authority of members of the to visit jails, 127

**Jails**
Members of Council as non-official visitors of, 171.
Non-co operation prisoners in in Bengal, 301.
Publications of inspection notes of non-official visitors of, 176.
Superintendents of and Sub Jails, 172.

**Jamalpur**
Land acquired for abandoned district headquarters at, 21

**Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra**
Hunger-strike of some political prisoners in the Midnapore Central Jail, 301.
Promotion of judicial officers, 252
Recruitment to Bengal Civil Service from certain districts of Burdwan Division, 448
Trial of certain political prisoners at Midnapore, 425.

**Jessore**
"Bil Boral" scheme in the Narail Subdivision of the district of, 316.
Cost of Settlement buildings, etc., in, 357.

**Judicial Officers**
Promotion of, 252.

**Jute Forecast,** 116.

**Jute Mills Strikes,** 78

**Kala-azar**
In Baraset, 15
In Burdwan, 76.
In Tangail, 53

**Kanungoes,** 9.

**Karim, Maulvi Fazlal**
Bakarganj cattle, 449
Centre for language examination of officers, 18
Diet money of witnesses in suits, 312.
Increase of residential allowance, 331.
Inspector-General of Police, 67
Officers eligible for certain language examination, 19.
Officiating Munsiffs, 252
Pay of Deputy Superintendents of Police, 449.
Revision of several departments and services, 312
Under-trial prisoners of Patuakhali Sub-Jail and buckets for carrying water, 56.
Vaccination, 247

**Kasba Munsifi** 446

**Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John**
Alleged censorship of telegrams at Barisal, 442
Appointments in the Bengal Secretariat Press, 310
Appraisers in Calcutta Customs, 39
Chaprasis in Judicial and Executive departments of district, 22.
Commerce Department Schemes on Council Resolutions, 37.
Cost of administration before and after Reforms, 33
Defalcation of court fee, stamps in Bakarganj Treasury, 14, 79
Demands for grants, 389, 462, 470, 474, 475, 477.
Indians in the Calcutta Preventive service, 39.
Inspectors of Factories, 115.
Jute Mill strikes, 79.
Muhammadan holidays, 43.

**Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John**
Over-time work of Preventive officers at Salt Golas, 40.
Pay drawn by Ministers, 444.
Prices of food grains and vegetables, 237.
Proposed levy of cotton cess on commercial cotton, 68.
Removal of restrictions on the export of rice, 179.
Representation of zamindars on Bengal Retrenchment Committee, 54.
Revised increase rates of salary of different departments, 309
Revision of several departments and services, 312
River Surveyors employed by the Port Commissioners of Calcutta, 310
Supplementary Estimates, 80
Telegraph station at Sujanagar, Pabna, 370
Temporary piece workers of Secretariat Press, 240
Travelling charges of Government servants, 61.
Unemployment among Indian seamen, 373.
"Khaddar" and Government servants 66.

**Khan, Babu Debendra Lal**
Special class prisoners and non-co-operation prisoners, 233.

**Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din**
Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 200.
Allowance of members, 326
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 106.
Flogging of prisoners, 287, 288.

**Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin**
Radiological Institute, 214.

**Khulna Settlement office vacancies,** 54.

**Kidderpore Bridge**
Cost of construction of, 171.

**Kristopur-Bhangore Canals and Tolly's Nala,** 57.

**Laibagh Local Board**
Polling centres for election to the, 46.

**Lawyers' fees paid by Government** 122.

**Loans for malarial and other schemes,** 45

**Local Bodies**
Right of asking questions and moving resolutions in, 435.

**Madaripur**
Bil route canal, 242.
Munsifs at, 61.

**Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble**
Alleged delay in the disposal of settlement suits in Tippera district, 125.
Alleged excess realization of Settlement cost in Dacca and Faridpur, 58.
Baral and Ichamati Rivers of Pabna, 56
Bengal Tenancy Act, Amendment Committee, 124
Burdwan Land Acquisition Office, 69.
Cinchona plantations, 235
Cost of construction of Kidderpore Bridge, 171
Cost of Settlement buildings, etc., in Jessore 358
Damage to jute and autumn paddy, 315.
Damodar Canal water rates, 38
Demands for grants, 380, 387, 399, 403, 405, 413 481
Drainage of submerged lands in Burdwan and Hooghly districts for cultivation, 316
Excavating canals in Dacca, 59
Famine Relief Funds, 177
Flogging of prisoners, 276, 288
Ganti Embankments, 56
Khulna Settlement Office vacancies, 54.
Irrigation works, 223
Kanungoes, 9
Land acquired for abandoned district headquarters at Jamalpur, 21
Lease of Sundarbans arable lands to capitalists, 12
Lower Ganges Bridge and Nadia Rivers, 21.
Madaripur Bil Route Canal, 243
Ministerial officers of the Settlement department, 122.
Pargiter's History of the Sundarbans, 242.
Radiological Institute, 215
Raiwari Settlements in Sundarbans, 120.
Recording of proprietory rights in respect of public ways and pasture lands under Dacca Settlements, 58
Realization of *abwabs* by private landlords in the Sunderbans area, 308.
Realization of arrears of rent from zamindars of Dacca, 59
Realzation of arrears of rent in the Sunderbans lands, 55
Realisation of settlement cost from owners of non-agricultural and non horticultural lands in Nadia district, 441.

**Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble**
Reclamation of the Bhairab River of Nadia, 60.
Revenue sale of properties in the Dacca district, 60.
Settlement operations at Dacca and Mymensingh, 57.
Sluice-gate at the mouth of the Suafulla Jola, 18.
Summary procedure for recovery of rents by zamindars, 74.
Survey and Settlement Departments, 378.
Tolly's Nala and Kristopur Bhangore Canal, 58.
Use of circuit houses by Members of Council, 55.
Varole Khal, 9.

**Mahimpore**
Preservation of the residence of Jagat Seth of, 304.

**Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath**
Alleged treatment of—by the Superintendent of Alipore Jail, 357
Howrah-Amta Railway fares, 50.
Improvement of water-supply, 159.
Presidents of the Bengal Legislative Council, 37.
Radiological Institute, 211.
Staff Selection Board, 169.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 269, 270

**Malarious districts,** 31

**Mechuabazar Incidents Inquiry Committee** 118.

**Medical Institutions**
Accommodation for students in, 19.

**Medical Relief by employing peripatetic village practitioners,** 29

**Medical College**
Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery in Calcutta, 226.

**Medical Schemes on Council Resolutions,** 48.

**Medical practitioners on field service,** 237.

**Medical Service**
Names and designations of the officers in the various branches of the, 313.

**Medico-legal cases,** 25.

**Midnapore**
Trial of certain political prisoners at, 425.

**Midnapore Central Jail**
Death of a political prisoner in, 232.
Hunger-strike of some political prisoners in the, 301.

**Ministers**
Pay drawn by, 444.

**Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra**
Agricultural Demonstration Centres, 201.
Allowance of members, 324.
Auditing of Union Boards' Accounts, 371.
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 107.
Demand for grant, 461.
Executive Business Rules, 371.
Financial condition of the Calcutta University, 63.
Flogging of prisoners, 290.
Kala-azar in Burdwan, 76.
Irrigation works, 215, 225.
Ministerial officers of certain offices of the Education Department, 129.
Reorganization of Press and Forms Department, 248.
Selection of copyists, typists and comparing clerks in courts, 62.
Settlement operations at Dacca and Mymensingh, 57.
Staff Selection Board, 164.
Supply of cows' milk, 342.
Theft and dacoities on Howrah-Burdwan chord line, 247.
Transfer of Circle Officers, 119

**Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.**
Admission of Muhammadan students into Dacca School of Engineering, 70.
Brajo Mohan College, Barisal, 229, 434.
Building grants for schools in Pabna and Bogra, 438.
Calcutta University Institute, 439.
Condition of certain schools in Gopalgunj subdivision of Faridpur, 73.
Dacca University, 46
Demands for grants, 381, 385, 387, 392, 393, 394, 405, 407, 410, 476.
Economy in the Ministry of Education, 29.
Education Standing Committee, 14.
Educational Services be low Bengal Educational Service, 241.
Expenditure of the Calcutta University, 362.
Expenditure on Muhammadan hostels and messes, 369.
Financial condition of the Calcutta University, 63.

**Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.**
Financial control over Calcutta and Dacca Universities, 123.
Fish Market Fund of the Calcutta University, 436.
Hardinge Law College Hostels, 369.
Management of the Calcutta University Institute, 438.
Meeting of Syndicate on *Id* day, 245.
Ministerial officers of certain offices of the Education Department, 129.
Model Primary Schools in Pabna districts, 444.
Muhammadan candidates in the Bengal Engineering College and Hostel accommodation therein for Muhammadans, 238.
Muhammadans on the Calcutta University staff, 368.
Namasudra candidates for Sub-Registrarship, 73.
Number of literate and illiterate population in the Pabna district, 311.
Pabna Girl's School, 336.
Preservation of the residence of Jagut Seth of Mahumpur, 305.
Principal of Calcutta Madrassa and Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, 234.
"Prithibyapi Mahasamara," 374.
Provident funds of the aided and unaided recognised schools, 372.
Reorganization of Educational Services, 243.
Reorganisation of the Subordinate Educations Services, 253, 360, 364, 366, 367, 368.
Rule prohibiting members of Text-Book Committee to write text-books, 78.
Scholarships to students of backward classes, 65.
School Inspectiong Agency, 37.
School Text-Books, 44.
Students' Unions, 30.
Subordinate Educational Service, 71 123.
Tangail Bindubashini School, 445.
Travelling allowances of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in East Bengal, 235.

**Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath**
Accommodation for students in Medical Institutions, 19.
Allowances of members, 330.
Improvement of water-supply, 151, 152, 153.

**Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath**
Leaky roofs of Eastern Bengal Railway carriages and of inland steamers, 114.
Malarious districts, 31.
Members of Council as non-official visitors of jails, 171.
Names and designations of the officers in the various branches of the Medical Service, 313.
Non-co-operation prisoners in jails in Bengal, 301, 302
Population of Bengal, 31.
Professor of Pharmacology in School of Tropical Medicine, 2.
Radiological Institute, 210.
Superintendents of Jails and Sub Jails, 172.
Travelling and residential allowance of members, 257, 258, 260, 261
Treatment of non co-operation prisoners in Barisal Jail, 312

**Mufassal**
Authority controlling payment of fees to pleaders in, 112
Subdivisional Officers partaking of the hospitality of influential persons in the, 440.

**Muhammadan Candidates in the Bengal Engineering College and Hostel accommodation therein for Muhammadans**, 238.

**Muhammadan holidays**, 43.

**Muhammadans in the office of the Bengali Translator**, 442.

**Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra**
Bengal Village Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 89
Choking up of Dankuni Canal, 248
Improvement of water-supply, 131, 144.
Raised platforms at the important stations on the Bandel-Barharwa and Howrah-Burdwan Chord lines on the East Indian Railway, 315
Serampore Khal, 32

**Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone**
Allowances of members, 319, 320
Demand for grant, 385.

**Mukherji, Professor S. C.**
Activities of the Calcutta Research Tannery, 302
Allowances of members, 317.
Demands for grants, 383, 386, 455, 456, 459, 464.
Staff Selection Board, 183.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 260.

**Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary**
Staff Selection Board, 164.

**Munsiffs (officiating)**, 252.

**Murder cases in Burdwan**, 33.

**Nadia**
Realization of settlement cost from owners of non-agricultural and non-horticultural lands in—district, 441.
Reclamation of the Bhairab river of, 60.

**Naihati Union Board**
Transfer of income from firms to, 32

**Namasudra Candidates for Sub-Registrarship**, 73.

**Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra**
Allotments of cess Income to Union Boards, 32.
Ayurvedic and Unani Report, 53
Provident funds of the aided and unaided recognized schools, 372.
Reduction of staff in District Officers being relieved of duties of Chairmen of District Boards, 3.
Rural water-supply, 67.
Sanitary improvements, 20.
The *Swaraj* and *Hog Ketha* 14.
Tolly's Nala and Kristopur-Bhangore Canals, 57.
Transfer of income from firms to Naihati Union Board, 32.
Vice-Chairman, Bhatpara municipality, 372.

**Nawabzada**
Courtesy title of, 29.

**Newspapers publishing sale notifications**, 173

**Official Assignee**
Amounts drawn annually by the—High Court, Calcutta, 299

**Overbidge at Poradah**, 111.

**Pabna**
Agricultural farm, 178
Baral and Ichamati Rivers of, 56
Chaukidars of, 6.
Development of communication in the district of, 178.
Disposal of the dead body of a prisoner of the—Jail, 424.
Erosion of Ganges bank at, 370.
Establishment of an Union Committee at Haturia in, 76.
Incident, 182.

**Pabna**
Model Primary Schools in—districts, 444.
Number of literate and illiterate population in the—district, 311.
Telegraph station at Sujanagar, 369.
Travelling and halting charges of certain officers of, 116.
Water-works, 355.
Weaving Industry, 118.

**Paddy**
Damage to jute and autumn, 315.

**Pahlowan, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar**
Increase of residential allowance, 330, 331, 332.

**Pal, Rai Bahadur, Radha Charan**
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 93
Improvement of water-supply, 132.
Radiological Institute, 215.
Staff Selection Board, 169.

**"Palaramer Swadeshita"**
Proscription of play contained in, 433.

**Panel of Chairmen**, 1.

**Patuakhali**
Under-trial prisoners of—Sub-Jail and buckets for carrying water, 56.

**Picketing of foreign cloths in Calcutta**, 72.

**Police**
Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta, 358.
Bengal and Calcutta, 114.
Certain—officers in Calcutta and Bengal, 11.
Deputy Commissionership of—from Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Assistant Commissioners, 35.
Pay of Deputy Superintendents of, 449.
Revision of pay of—Sub-Inspectors, 42.

**Police Service**
Acting arrangements in higher—in Calcutta and Bengal, 432.

**Political prisoners**
Arrested or convicted for employing methods of assassination, 442.
Treated as special class prisoners, 431.
Trial of certain—at Midnapore, 425.

**Population of Bengal**, 31.

**Poradah**
Overbridge at, 111.
Varole Khal Bridge near, 227.
Waiting room at, 45.

**Presents**
Receipt of—by Magistrates, 433.

**Presidency Jail Outbreak,** 118.

**Presidents of the Bengal Legislative Council,** 37.

**Press**
Action of Government officers against public, 40.

**Press and Forms Department**
Reorganization of, 248.

**Price lists of commercial products,** 113.

**Prices of food-grains and vegetables,** 237.

**Prisoners**
Disciplinary punishments on non-co-operation, 306
Facility to Moslem for prayers 125.
Special class—and non-co operation, 233
Statement of Inspector General of Prisons as to future treatment of special class, 436.

**" Prithibibyapi Mahasamara "** 373.

**Process and sale notice forms of Civil Courts,** 63.

**Prorogation,** 481.

**Publication and sale of papers of local bodies,** 447.

**Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-**
Allowances for members, 322.
Amounts drawn annually by the Official Assignee, High Court, Calcutta, 300.
Authority controlling payment of fees to pleaders in mufassal, 112.
Civil suits and criminal cases in the Tippera district, 30.
Copyists and typists of Court, 11, 354.
Demands for grants, 394, 397, 479.
Diet money of witnesses in suits, 312.
Kasba Munsifi, 447.
Increase of residential allowance, 332.
Lawyers' fees paid by Government, 122.
Munsifs at Madaripur, 61.
Newspapers publishing notifications, 173, 176.
Non-sittings of Bengal Legislative Council on Saturdays and ceremonial occasions, 246.
Number of suits in each district, 126.
Officiating Munsifs, 253.
Process and sale notice forms of Civil Courts, 63.

**Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-**
Promotion of Judicial officers, 252.
Rule as to the sittings of Courts, 299.
Salary system to copyists of Courts, 25.
Selection of copyists, typists and comparing clerks in Courts, 62
Status of Vakils in the Calcutta High Court, Original Side, 13.
Supervision of Subordinate Courts by High Court, 431
Supply of drinking water to Court buildings in Chittagong, 177.
Transfer of cases from the file of the Subdivisional Officer Balurghat, 298.
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 258, 264
Typists and copyists of Courts, 77
Union Benches and Courts in Tippera, 74.
Union Courts, 251.
Witness sheds in courts 7.

**Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb**
Supply of cows' milk, 349

**Railway Advisory Councils,** 119

**Rainfall**
Statement of, 120.

**" Ramzan "**
Order allowing fruits to Muhammadan prisoners in Alipore Central Jail during, 429.

**Ranaghat**
Waiting-room for females at, 15.

**Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur**
Allowances of members, 320, 321, 322.
Bengal Excise (Amendment) Bill 1922, 81.
Increase of residential allowance, 332.
Typists and copyists of Courts, 77.

**Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar**
Alleged delay in delivery of a letter addressed to a prisoner of Barisal, 425.
Disciplinary punishment on non co-operation prisoners, 306
Demands for grants, 382, 383, 388, 391, 392, 413, 419.
Flogging of prisoners, 273, 275, 276, 280, 282, 285.
Hunger-strike in Barisal Jail, 375.
Improvement of water-supply, 151.
Inspection note of a non official visitor of Barisal Jail, 306, 307.
Statement made by Gopal Chandra Sen of the Barisal Jail, 303, 304.

**Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar**
Travelling and residential allowance of members, 256, 258, 259, 260, 261, 317.
Staff Selection Board, 195.
Supply of cows' milk, 344, 345, 346.
Whipping of political prisoners in Barisal Jail, 356.
Cows as plough cattle, 179.

**Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal**
Newspapers publishing sale notifications, 173.
Principal of Calcutta Madrassa and Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, 234.
Supply of drinking water to Court buildings in Chittagong, 177.
Witness sheds in Courts, 6.

**Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor**
Damage to jute and autumn paddy, 315.
Proposed levy of cotton cess on commercial cotton, 67.
Railway Advisory Councils, 119.
Removal of restrictions on the export of rice, 179.

**Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra**
Allowances of members, 327.
Demand for grant, 467.
Jute mill strikes, 78.
Unemployment among Indian seamen, 373.

**Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath**
Cost of administration before and after Reforms, 33.
Demand for grant, 479.
Kala-azar in Tangail, 53
Land acquired for abandoned district headquarters at Jamalpur, 21.
Representation of zamindars on Bengal Retrenchment Committee, 54.
Tangail Bindubashini School, 445.
Water-works at Tangail, 20, 21.

**Recording of proprietory rights in respect to public ways and pasture lands under Dacca Settlement,** 58.

**Recruitment**
Of Deputy Collectors from Subordinate Civil Service, 129.
Of Muhammadans to Government posts, 437.

**Reforms**
Cost of administration before and after, 33.

**Reorganization of Educational Services,** 243.

**Retrenchment Committee**
Circular letters from, 80.
Representation of zamindars on Bengal, 54.

**Revision of several departments and services,** 312.

**Rice**
Removal of restrictions on the export of, 179.

**Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath**
Alleged excess realization of settlement costs in Dacca and Faridpur, 58.
Excavating canals in Dacca, 59.
Process and sale notice forms of Civil Courts, 63.
Realization of arrears of rent from zamindars of Dacca, 59.
Recording of proprietary rayats in respect of public ways and pasture lands under Dacca Settlement, 58.

**Roy, Babu Nalini Nath**
Anti-malarial or sanitary drainage schemes, 33.
"Bil Boral" scheme in the Narail Subdivision of the district of Jessore, 316.
Famine Relief Fund, 177.
Hunger-strike in Barisal Jail, 374.
"Prithibibzapi Mahasamara," 373.
Realization of fees from certain clubs for erection of temporary structures on Calcutta Maidan, 78.
Rule prohibiting members of Text-Book Committee to write text-books, 77.
School Text-Books, 44.
Whipping of political prisoners in Barisal Jail, 441.

**Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra**
Fees for examination of adulterated foodstuffs, 375.
Loans for malarial and other schemes, 45.
Lower Ganges Bridge and Nadia Rivers, 21.
Realization of settlement cost from owners of non-agriculturial and non-horticultural lands in Nadia district, 441.
Reclamation of the Bhairab river of Nadia 60.
Sub-Deputy Collectors taken into Bengal Survey Department, 376.
Waiting-room at Poradah, 45.
Waiting-room for females at Ranaghat, 45.

**Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh**
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 101.
Burdwan Land Acquisition office, 68.
Damodar Canal Water Rates, 38
Loans to District Boards for water-supply, 4.
New Mounted Police in Calcutta, 7.
Recruitment of Deputy Collectors from Subordinate Civil Service, 150.
Statement of rainfall, 120.
Sub-Deputy Collectors taken into Bengal Survey Department, 376.
Survey and Settlement Departments, 377.

**Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan**
Acting arrangements in higher Police Service in Calcutta and Bengal, 432.
Allowance of members, 325, 328.
Bengal and Calcutta Police, 114.
Calcutta Police Committee Report, 7.
Certain Police officers in Calcutta Police and Bengal Police, 11.
Dacca University, 46.
"Goondaism" in Calcutta, 7.
Improvement of water-supply, 140.
Political prisoners treated as special class prisoners, 431.
Proscription of play contained in "Pularamer Swedeshita," 433
Travelling and residential allowances of members, 261, 271.

**Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh**
Agricultural Demonstration farms, 198.
Arbitration Court of Non-co-operators 426.
Chaprasis in Judicial and Executive Departments, of district, 22.
Congestion of traffic in certain crossings in Calcutta, 8.
Culverts along the Tarkessur Branch of the East Indian Railway and the Bengal Provincial Railway, 68.
Demands for grants, 387, 393, 405, 408, 456.
Drainage of submerged lands in Burdwan and Hooghly districts for cultivation, 316.
Infant and child mortility, 249.
Infant Industries of Bengal, 234.
Irrigation Works, 220.
Organization of village people into Consumers' Associations, 115.
Plans for development of industries in Bengal, 172.

**Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohon Singh**
Price-lists of commercial products,, 113.
Prices of food-grains and vegetables, 237.
Steps against brothels, 2.
Wages of agricultural labourers, 113.

**Roy, Raja Manilall Singh**
Bengal Village-Chaukidari (Amendment) Bill, 1922, 83.
Demands for grants, 421, 422.
Murder cases in Burdwan, 33.

**Rules**
Executive Business, 371.

**Salangahat**
Magisterial Inquiry, 130.
Shooting, 439.

**Salary**
Revised increased rates of—of different departments, 308.
System to copyists of Courts, 25

**Salt Golas**
Overtime work of Preventive officers at, 40.

**Sanitary Improvements,** 29

**Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra**
Travelling allowances of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in East Bengal, 235.

**Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath**
Cost of maintenance of the Victoria Memorial, 427.
Statistics of cholera, 4
Stay of Under-Secretaries in Darjeeling, 34.
Travelling expenses of members of Council attending meetings of the Indian Legislature, 69.

**Sasmal, Mr.**
Weight of, 305.

**Scholarships to students of backward classes,** 65.

**School (s)**
Inspecting Agency, 37
Text-Books, 44.
Condition of certain—in Gopalganj subdivision of Faridpur, 72.
Provident Funds of the aided and unaided recognized, 372.
Provincialization of Pabna Middle English Girls', 332.

**Secretariat Press**
Temporary piece-workers of, 239.

**Serampore Khal,** 32.

**Sericulture**
Superintendent of, 112.

**Settlement**
Alleged excess realization of—costs in Dacca and Faridpur, 58.
Ministerial officers of the—Department, 121.
Operations at Dacca and Mymensingh, 57.

**Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan**
Agricultural Demonstration Farms, 200.
Demand for grant, 392.
Polling centres for election to the Lalbagh Local Board, 46, 48.
Preservation of the residence of Jagat Seth of Mahimpur, 304.
Reorganization of the Co-operative Department, 181.

**Sluice-gate at the mouth of the Sutfulia Jola,** 18.

**Spry, Mr. H. E.**
Demand for grant, 474.

**Staff Selection Board,** 159, 182.

**Standing Committee**
Sittings of—on Local Self-Government, 121.
Sittings of—on Medical and Public Health, 121.

**Standing Order**
Amendment of—24 (2), 130.

**Stark, Mr. H. A.**
Calcutta Christian Burial Board Fee, 22.
Deputy Commissionership of Police from Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Assistant Commissioners, 35.
Doveton College Funds, 36.
School Inspecting Agency, 37.

**Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.**
Acting arrangements in higher Police Service in Calcutta and Bengal, 432.
Action of Government officers against public press, 41.
Additional Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates, 127.
Alleged Council of Action formed by Bakarganj District Magistrate, 429.

**Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.**
Alleged delay in delivery of a letter addressed to a prisoner of Barisal, 426.
Alleged treatment of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik by the Superintendent of Alipore Jail, 357.
Arbitration Courts of non-co-operators, 426.
Arrangement of interviews of special class prisoners in Alipore Central Jail. 432, 433.
Assistant Commissioners of Calcutta Police 359.
Authority of members of the Jail Standing Committee to visit jails, 428.
Bengal and Calcutta Police, 114.
Bengal Village-Chaukidari Amendment Bill, 1922, 83, 87, 96, 98, 103, 106, 379, 380.
Calcutta Christian Burial Board Fee, 22.
Calcutta Police Committee Report, 8.
Candidates for Sub-Inspectorship from Faridpur Namasudra community, 42.
Centre for language examination of officers, 19.
Certain police officers in Calcutta Police and Bengal Police, 11.
Chaukidars of Pabna, 6.
Checking of Council Members' Travelling Allowance Bills, 43.
Collector of Tippera, 124.
Congestion of traffic at certain crossing in Calcutta, 8.
Cost of maintenance of the Victoria Memorial, 427.
Courtesy title of Nawabzada, 29.
Dacoities in Brahmanbaria, 128.
Death of a political prisoner in Midnapore Central Jail, 232.
Demands for grants, 391, 399, 470, 477, 478, 479.
Deputy Commissionership of Police from Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Assistant Commissioners, 36.
Disciplinary punishments on non-co-operation prisoners, 306.
Disposal of the dead body of a prisoner of the Pabna Jail, 425.
Doveton College Funds, 36.
Executive Business Rules, 371.
Extension of service to Rai Bahadur R. M. Das, 444.
Facilities to Moslem prisoners for prayers, 125, 126.

**Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.**
Flogging of prisoners, 280, 281, 282, 283, 285, 291, 296.
"Goondaism" in Calcutta, 7.
Hunger-strike of some political prisoners in the Midnapore Central Jail, 301.
Hunger-strike in Barisal Jail, 374, 375.
*Id-ul-fitr* holidays for Muhammadan jail prisoners, 435.
Immovable properties of Government servants, 2.
Inspection note of a non-official visitor of Barisal Jail, 307.
Inspector-General of Police, 67.
*Khaddar* and Government servants, 66.
Language Examinations, 25.
Machuabazar Incident Inquiry Committee, 18.
Members of Council as non-official visitors of jails, 711.
Muhammadans in the office of the Bengali Translator, 443.
Murder cases in Burdwan, 34.
New Mounted Police in Calcutta, 7.
Non-co-operation prisoners in jails in Bengal, 302.
Officers illegible for certain language examination, 19.
Orders allowing fruits to Muhammadan prisoners in Alipore Central Jail during *Ramzan*, 429.
Pabna Incident, 182.
Pay of Deputy Superintendents of Police, 449.
Payment of chaukidars, 246.
Penal diet to under trial prisoners in Barisal Jail, 437.
Period of stay of the Subdivisional Officer of Balurghat, 5.
Persons dealt with under Criminal Procedure Code for political work, 71, 72.
Picketing of foreign clothes in Calcutta, 72.
Political prisoners treated as special class prisoners, 431.
Presidency Jail outbreak, 118.
Presidents of the Bengal Legislative Council, 38
Proscription of play contained in "Palaramer Swedishita," 433.
Publication of inspection notes of non-official visitors of jails, 176.
Realization of fees from certain clubs for erection of temporary structures on Calcutta Maidan, 78.
Receipt of presents by Magistrates, 433.

**Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.**
Recruitment of Deputy Collectors from subordinate Civil Service, 129.
Recruitment of Muhammadans to Government posts. 437,
Recruitment to Bengal Civil Service from certain districts of Burdwan Division, 448.
Reorganization of Press and Forms Department, 248.
Revision of pay of Police Sub-Inspectors, 42.
Sacrifice of cows in village Garadob in Meherpur on *Bakr-Id*, 10.
Salangahat Magisterial Inquiry, 430.
Salangahat Shooting, 440.
Special class prisoners and non-co-operation prisoners, 233.
Staff Selection Board, 189, 195.
Statement made by Gopal Chandra Sen of the Barisal Jail, 304.
Statement of Inspector General of Prisons as to future treatment of special class prisoners, 436.
Stay of Under Secretaries in Darjeeling, 35.
Steps against brothels, 2.
Subdivisional Officers partaking of the hospitality of influential persons in the Mufassal, 440
Superintendents of Jails and Sub-Jails, 172.
*Swaraj* and *Hog Katha*, 14.
Thefts and dacoities on Howrah Burdwan Chord Line, 247.
Transfer of Circle Officers, 119.
Travelling and halting charges of certain officers of Pabna, 117.
Travelling expenses of members of Council attending meetings of the Indian Legislature ,70.
Treatment of non-co-operation prisoners in Barisal Jail, 313.
Trial of certain political prisoners at Midnapore, 425.
Under-trial prisoners of Patuakhali Sub-Jail and buckets for carrying water, 57
Visit of the Inspector-General of Prisons to Barisal, 300.
Weight of Mr. Sasmal, 306.
Whipping in Barisal Jail, 356, 363, 441.

**Students' Unions**, 30.

**Subordinate Civil Service**
Recruitment of Deputy Collectors from, 129.

**Subordinate Courts**
Supervision of—by High Courts, 431.

**Subordinate Educational Service,** 70, 123, 253, 359, 363, 365.

**Suhrawardy, Dr. A.**
Alleged treatment of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik by the Superintendent of Alipore Jail, 357.
Allowances of members, 320
Arrangement of interviews of special class prisoners in Alipore Central Jail, 432.
Authority of members of the Jail Standing Committee to visit jails, 427.
Disciplinary punishments on non-co-operation prisoners, 306.
Facilities to Moslem prisoners for prayers 126.
Flogging of prisoners, 280, 292, 295.
Orders allowing fruits to Muhammadan prisoners in Alipore Central Jail during *Ramzan*, 429.
Publications of inspection notes of non-official visitors of jails, 176.
Staff Selection Board, 195.
Travelling and residential allowance of members, 257.
Weight of Mr. Sasmal, 305.

**Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan**
Establishment of a Bengal Radiological Institute, 203.
Facilities to Moslem students for study in Calcutta Technical School, 113
Increase of residential allowance, 331.
Medical practitioners on field service, 237.
Muhammadan candidates in the Bengal Engineering College and Hostel accommodation therein for Muhammadans, 238.
Radiological Institute, 213.
Staff Selection Board, 182

**Suhrawardy, Mr. Husseyn Shaheed**
Agricultural schemes adopted on Council Resolutions, 23.
Alleged censorship of telegrams at Barisal, 442.
Alleged Council of Action formed by Bakarganj District Magistrate, 429.
Allowances of members, 328.
Commerce Department Schemes on Council Resolutions, 37.
Defalcation of court-fees stamps in Bakarganj Treasury, 79.
Flogging of prisoners, 290.

**Suhrawardy, Mr. Husseyn Shaheed**
Improvement of water-supply, 132.
Medical Schemes on Council Resolutions, 48.
Reorganization of Subordinate Educational Service, 253.

**Suits**
Number of—in each district, 126.

**Sundarban Lands**
Realisation of arrears of rent in the, 55.

**Sundarbans**
Lease of—arable lands to capitalists, 11.
Pargiter's history of the, 241.
"Raiyatwari" settlements in, 120.

**Superintendents of Jails and Sub-Jails,** 172.

**Survey and Settlement Departments,** 377

**Survey Department**
Sub-Deputy Collectors taken into Bengal 376

**Surveyors**
River—employed by the Port Commissioners of Calcutta, 309

**Swan, Mr. J. A. L.**
Demand for grants, 457, 474

**"Swaraj,"** 14

**Tangail**
Bindubashini School, 445
Kala-azar in, 54
Water-works at, 20.

**Text-Book Committee**
Rule prohibiting members of—to write text-books, 77.

**Tippera**
Alleged delay in the disposal of settlement suits in—district, 125.
Union Benches and Courts in, 74

**Tolly's Nala and Kristopore-Bhangore Canals,** 57.

**Transfer of Circle Officers,** 119.

**Travelling Allowance Bills**
Checking of Council members, 42

**Travelling Allowances of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in East Bengal,** 235.

**Travelling and Halting Charges of certain officers of Pabna,** 117.

**Travelling and Residential Allowances of Members,** 255.

**Travelling Charges of Government Servants,** 61.

**Travelling Expenses of Members of Council attending Meetings of the Indian Legislature,** 69.

**Travers, Mr. W. L.**
Stoppage of booking of goods *via* Santahar, 50.

**Tropical Medicine**
Professor of Pharmacology in School of, 2.

**Typists and Copyists in Courts,** 77.

**Unemployment among Indian seamen,** 373.

**Union Courts,** 251.

**Vaccination,** 247.

**Vakils**
Status of—in the Calcutta High Court Original Side, 13.

**Varsie Khal,** 8.

**Victoria Memorial**
Cost of maintenance of the, 427

**Vishnupur**
Scarcity of drinking water in, 15.

**Wages of Agricultural Labourers,** 113.

**Water-hyacinth,** 298

**Water-supply**
Filtered—in suburban municipalities, 26.
Improvement of, 131
Loans to District Boards for, 4
Rural, 64, 67.

**Wilson, Lt.-Col. R. P.**
Establishment of a Bengal Radiological Institute, 209.
Professor of Pharmacology in School of Tropical Medicine, 3.

**Witness Sheds in Courts,** 6.

**Zamindars**
Summary procedure for recovery of rents by, 73.

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